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RICHARDS

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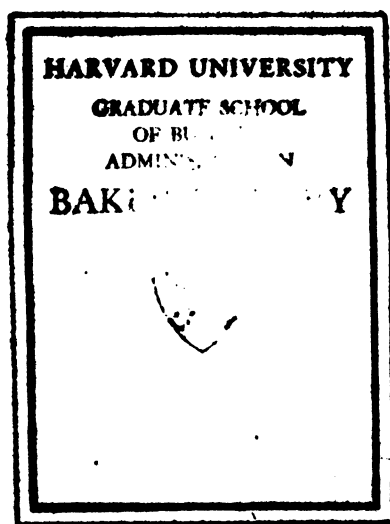
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AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS,

PART I.

*HINTS TO THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE
CATTLE TRADE*

PART II.

*A BLOCK TEST DISPUTE.
OPPOSITION TO THE SCALES AND THE TRUTH*

BY

WESTLEY RICHARDS.//

LONDON: EDWARD STANFORD
26 & 27 COCKSPUR STREET, CHARING CROSS, S.W.

1893

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AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

PART I.

MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST TO THOSE CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE CATTLE TRADE, INCLUDING MIDDLEMEN, BUTCHERS, AND FARMERS.

I HAVE long felt satisfied that farmers could not possibly know the value of their fat cattle in the way their business is now conducted, and this I have repeatedly stated to them. In order to demonstrate that which it might be said was only an opinion, I have collected a number of "block test" competitions which prove beyond any doubt the truth of the statement repeatedly made.

The plan of what are now known as "block tests" was adopted by Sir John Lawes in 1879, for the purpose of testing the knowledge of experts as to the weight of carcass a fat beast would yield, and this knowledge was found to be

B

very defective. The statistics now given will explain themselves.

Definition
of a block
test.

A "block test" is a comparison between *opinions* of the weight of carcass a fat beast will yield, made in the usual manner now in vogue in all our markets, and the final test of the butcher's block where the *actual* yield is ascertained.

The use
of block
tests.

Block tests serve to call the attention of farmers and others connected with the cattle trade to the very great diversity of opinion that exists as to the weight and value of the carcass contained in a fat animal, and to demonstrate the great difficulty of the operation as now conducted.

The present method makes it impossible to arrive at a fact from which to form a basis of calculation, but if the live weight of an animal is taken at market, there is a fact which can be represented by a figure, and practice will soon enable both buyers and sellers to estimate the percentage of carcass a beast will yield. Block tests are therefore both valuable and instructive from an educational point of view, as it brings to the notice of farmers in a practical manner how widely their estimates differ from the fact. It will be seen from this, that if the highest and lowest estimates are suppressed, the competition ceases to be a block test, and is converted from a block test into a common lottery of a very trumpery kind, and is not of the smallest use or assistance to farmers in forwarding the object for which the

block tests were instituted, which was to facilitate their business transactions. Moreover, lotteries are illegal.

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

ASHWELL : *Feb. 5th, 1892.*

Sir J. B. Lawes wrote, "I agree with all that is said in reference to a block test. The object is to teach farmers how to ascertain the carcass weight of their stock by taking the live weight. The weighing is an important part of this business and should not be the subject of bets, and it is most unfair to suppress any of the estimates given."

Sir J. B.
Lawes'
remark.

Mr. John D. M'Jannet also wrote, "The above is a correct definition of a block test. The very essence of tests is to show farmers the great diversity of opinion that exists among themselves, and to do this, it is necessary to give the extremes, that is, the highest and lowest estimates."

Mr. J. D.
M'Jannet's
remark.

Block Test Guesses by Farmers.
First List for 1892.

Date of Test.	Name of Test.	Number of Farmers at each Test.	Actual Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Highest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Lowest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Difference in highest and lowest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Difference in Money Value.	Remarks.
1892. Feb. 2	Huntley	50	st. lb. 49 4	st. lb. 50 7	st. lb. 42 0	st. lb. 8 7 or 110 lb.	£ s. d. 3 5 0	Canadian Shorthorn
Mar. 18	Royal Northern	176	72 10	82 0	57 0	or 110 lb.	9 13 9	Horned Steer
"	Royal Northern	173	62 8	74 11	48 12	or 350 lb. 25 13	10 1 0	Polled Steer
Mar. 28	Laurencekirk	34	54 1½	57 0	44 10	or 363 lb. 12 4	4 9 7	Black Polled Bullock
"	Laurencekirk	34	60 3½	72 0	52 0	or 172 lb. 20 0	7 5 10	Irish Bullock
"	Laurencekirk	34	69 11½	80 0	52 0	or 280 lb. 28 0	9 7 10	Canadian
April 29	Aberdeen	175	72 10	82 0	57 0	or 392 lb. 25 0	9 9 7	Cross-bred Ox
"	Aberdeen	173	62 8	74 11	49 12	or 350 lb. 24 13 or 349 lb.	9 9 0½	Cross-bred Ox

May 7 {	Ceasnook Castle	35	59 12	74 12	44 10	30 2 or 422 lb.	Ayrshire Cow
"	Duke of Portland's	35	61 0	88 0	46 0	42 0	Ayrshire Bullock
May 16	Ceasnook Castle	22	75 11	92 7	57 2	or 588 lb. 35 5	
"	Newark	62	53 12	58 8	37 10	or 495 lb. 20 12	3-year old Bullock.
May 18	Shropshire	88	53 7	54 10	44 10	or 292 lb. 10 0	Polled Cross Bullock.
July 18 {	Inverurie	36	63 7	79 7	51 7	or 140 lb. 28 0	Shorthorn.
July 21	Welbeck	103	63 10	76 0	45 7	or 392 lb. 30 7	Irish or Canadian Bullock
July 26	Duke of Portland's	133	56 13	71 13	42 10	or 427 lb. 29 3	Black Polled Bullock
"	Berwick	133	53 5	68 0	38 5	or 409 lb. 29 9	Black Polled Bullock
July 27	Inverness	113	47 10	53 0	30 10	or 415 lb. 22 4	Aberdeen Angus
"	Inverness	113	47 10	59 0	37 7	or 312 lb. 21 7	Irish Cross Bullock
July 28	Inverness	133	54 3	66 3	40 0	or 301 lb. 26 3	Black Polled Bullock
"	Inverness	133	43 11	54 8	36 0	or 367 lb. 18 8	White Cross Canadian
		21			21	or 260 lb.	
	Averages	1988				513 13	
		94				24 6	

BLOOD TEST GUESSES BY FARMERS.

Second List for 1892.

Date of Test.	Name of Test.	Number of Farmers at each Test.	Actual Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Highest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Lowest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Difference in highest and lowest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Difference in Money Value.	Remarks.
1892. Aug. 5	Kelso	72	st. lb. 49 8	st. lb. 55 10	st. lb. 40 0	st. lb. 15 10 or 220 lb.	£ s. d. 6 5 8	2½-year old Bullock
Aug. 18	Dufftown	112	56 1	84 0	46 2	37 12 or 530 lb.	15 9 2	Black Polled Angus
"	Dufftown	112	53 8	72 0	44 4	27 10 or 388 lb.	11 6 4	Black Polled Angus
—	Turriff	27	51 7	59 0	46 4	12 10 or 178 lb.	5 3 10	Black Heifer
—	Turriff	27	54 0	61 7	49 7	12 0 or 168 lb.	4 18 0	Black Heifer

Sept. 2	Penrith	158	48 7½	50 1	34 0	16 1 or 22½ lb.	5 16 6	3-year old Heifer, grass fed
Sept. 20	Nithsdale	41	50 13	54 10½	29 5½	25 5 or 355 lb.	9 10 2	Irish bullock, fed in Dumfriesshire
Oct. 1	Llangefni	96	45 0	52 0	28 8	23 6 or 328 lb.	9 4 6	Welsh Runt
"	Llangefni	96	44 8	51 6	30 5	21 1 or 295 lb.	8 5 11½	Welsh Runt
Oct. 12	Langholm	72	51 4	55 0	32 0	23 0 or 322 lb.	9 7 10	
Averages		813			10	214 13	85 7 11½	
		81				21 7	8 10 9½	

There have been eight estimates of carcass yield based upon live weight. The average difference between the highest and lowest estimates was 7 lb., and in money value 4s.

I recommend no one to attempt to buy or sell by live weight till they understand the subject, which is easily learned.

BLOCK TEST GUESSES BY BUTCHERS AND DEALERS.

Date of Test.	Name of Test.	Number of Butchers and Dealers at each Test.	Actual Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Highest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Lowest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Difference in highest and lowest Estimated Carcass Weight in 14 lb. stones.	Difference in Money Value.	Remarks.
1891. Dec. 11	Whitchurch	34	st. lb. 45 11	st. lb. 48 13	st. lb. 43 8	st. lb. 5 5 or 7½ lb.	£ s. d. 2 3 9	
Dec. 14	Oakham	31	73 12	86 0	68 10	17 4 or 24½ lb.	7 1 2	Shorthorn
1892. Mar. 28	Laurencekirk	25	54 1½	56 10	45 0	11 10 or 16½ lb.	4 6 10	Black Polled Bullock
"	Laurencekirk	25	60 3½	62 8	53 7	9 1 or 12½ lb.	3 6 6	Irish Bullock
"	Laurencekirk	25	69 11½	68 5	59 2	9 3 or 12½ lb.	3 1 9	Canadian

	Shropshire	..	..	22	53 12	55 10	49 6	6 4 or 88 lb.	2 8 2	3-year old Bullock
May 18	Inverurie	..	..	8	53 7	51 13	46 12	5 1 or 71 lb.	2 0 7	Black Cross Polled
July 21	Berwick	..	..	45	63 10	74 7	52 10	21 11 or 305 lb.	8 14 3	Irish or Canadian Bullock
Aug. 5	Kelso	..	..	28	49 8	51 10	33 5	18 5 or 257 lb.	7 6 10	2-year old Bullock
Aug. 18	Dufftown	..	..	52	56 1	62 12	52 0	10 12 or 152 lb.	4 8 8	Black Polled Angus
"	Dufftown	..	..	52	53 8	60 8	50 12	9 10 or 136 lb.	3 19 4	Black Polled Angus
Sept. 20	Nithsdale *	..	..	13	50 13	74 0	39 0	35 0 or 490 lb.	13 2 6	Irish Bullock, fed in Dumfriesshire
							11	124 10	48 17 10	
Averages				31				11 4	4 8 10½	

* Not taken with the Averages, as it was an open Test for Butchers and all comers.

The holding of block tests in Scotland has been due to Mr. M'Jannet's energy and perseverance; he has personally conducted the great majority of the tests. The agricultural community are, therefore, much indebted to him for the information contained in these statistics, which are valuable records.

Block
test
statistics.

The block test statistics that have been collected are very remarkable documents, and are valuable records which have never been collected before. They cannot fail to be of public interest. They show in what an unsatisfactory manner the cattle trade of the country is carried on under the present method of guessing the weight of carcass a fat animal is likely to yield. The system admits of speculation in an important article of food, and must add to its cost to the consumer. The expenses of distribution should be reduced to a minimum in the interest of consumers, and they cannot be under the present system of marketing cattle. It is impossible that the cattle trade can be carried on without middlemen, as many are now proposing to do: they render most valuable service, for which they must be paid. They are generally good men of business, and lead very hard lives. They collect cattle from small farmers and bring them to the different markets for sale. They sell them privately, and also at auctions, and frequently lose both their time and money by the transactions. This they would not be so liable to

Con-
sumer's
interest.

Middle-
men.

do if they could arrange to both buy and sell by live weight, and make it more of a commission business. The profits might be something less but they would be more certain and uniform. A buyer could state what he wanted and what he could afford to give. Of course the scarcity or abundance will always regulate the price, which will vary according to circumstances, such as scarcity or abundance of keep, &c. Cattle salesmen in markets like Islington are necessary middlemen, and the services they perform could not be so well performed by farmers themselves. Auctioneers are also necessary middlemen, and the system of selling by auction appears to be on the increase.

Commission business for middlemen.

The two last kinds of middlemen are paid by commission and do the best they can for those who consign cattle to them for sale. I want to see the farmer himself, and particularly the smaller ones, know more about the value of their cattle, which they cannot do under the present system, as they have only a few transactions in the year, while the butcher and dealer are testing their judgment every week, and even they, when their knowledge is tested, are found to make great mistakes. The statistics show that they are about twice as good guessers as average farmers, but they ought to be far better than that. Estimating the weight of carcass a fat animal will contain, is a gift. There are many butchers that have no

Butchers' want of accurate knowledge.

aptitude for it, and this is why one man who possesses this gift, often buys for a great many butchers. I myself have no idea what a fat beast is worth within 1*l.* or 2*l.* by looking at him, but when I have the live weight, I can tell his value to a few shillings, and estimate his carcass to one-half or at most one per cent. of my own fat cattle.

The above remarks about middlemen apply to those who advocate doing away with them. It does not apply to those with any experience in the trade; they will know that in its general application to get rid of middlemen is not a practical proposal. Farmers are of course at liberty to combine and slaughter their own cattle and sell the carcasses and become their own middlemen; this, I believe, has been tried, but I doubt if it will answer in the long run, as there would be many adverse circumstances to contend with; but selling cattle by live weight is a perfectly practical proposition, now that the necessary provisions for such transactions have been made.

Butchers.

The butcher is a different kind of middleman to those referred to; he is a distributor of meat and cannot be dispensed with; he will, like all other distributors, make as much profit as he can, and I have no doubt there is some ground for the complaint of consumers when they say he is getting more than his fair share of profit, as the price of meat does not go down in proportion to the fall

in price received by the farmer and quoted in the market reports.

The theory is, that competition will bring prices down to their proper level, after paying the legitimate cost of distribution. It does not appear in practice that this is always the case with either butcher or baker, but it must be remembered that the vast importations of foreign meat both dead and alive have diminished the value of the inferior joints of the best English-fed meat, and to meet this diminished value the butcher is obliged to add the loss thus sustained to the price he charges for the best joints. Every butcher must of necessity be guided by the demands of his own trade, which will vary in different localities: there can be no uniform rule.

My own experience of butchers is that they are good men of business, and that I have always found them straightforward in the transactions I have had with them; I have also found them willing to pay a top price for the best quality meat. Of course there are good and bad in all trades, and there are many who offer the greatest opposition to weighing in any form. Distributive industries of this kind are much easier to be carried on at a profit, and have not the difficulties and uncertainties to contend with that the producer has who is subject to bad seasons and low prices from competition. He knows the cost of everything he has to buy, and gets his customary profit in good

Distribu-
tive indus-
tries.

seasons and in bad alike. This is not the case with farmers.

Object of weighing.

The object I have had in view in what I have been doing was to assist farmers, and to suggest to them for adoption what I considered to be a sounder mode of conducting their business operations.

It was evident that guessing at the quantity of a commodity, instead of determining its weight by the scales, could not be right or reliable. It is the quality and condition of all commodities that governs the price, but has nothing whatever to do with the quantity. As the means of weighing cattle in our markets and auction marts did not formerly exist, the first necessary step, in order to carry out my proposal, was to provide them; I therefore got an Act of Parliament passed in 1887 requiring that every market or fair to which the Act applies should provide the necessary machines for weighing cattle. In 1891 a second Act was passed which included auction marts, and also required the Board of Agriculture to collect and publish in an official form the live weight prices realised in a given number of scheduled markets. With this information, and with the means of ascertaining the live weight at market of their cattle, they would have a reliable basis of calculation. That this is a practical proposition I know from experience, as I have sold my cattle on this principle for over four years, or ever since the

means of weighing has been provided, the live-weight prices being taken from the *Times* quotations.

The following question has been put to a number of practical men:—*Can you suggest a better mode of proceeding?*

I subjoin the answers received:—

Mr. John Fisher's Answer.—"I cannot suggest any better method to assist farmers in this particular branch of their business; unfortunately for them they are very slow in adopting it. If they would do this it would be a help to them in this branch of their business.

"The depression in agriculture is now so acute, and the prices, for everything a farmer produces, so low, that something on a far wider basis will have to be adopted if agriculture is ever again to prosper in this country.

"It is a shame that foreign meat should be allowed to be sold as 'prime English.' A preference is and has always been given by our Government to the foreigner."

Mr. Clare Sewell Read's Answer.—"I cannot answer for other farmers, but I must express my gratitude for your generous exertions to provide a means of ascertaining one *fact*, and that fact of the utmost importance, in selling fat cattle. Butchers and dealers must have a great advantage over

most farmers in *guessing* the weight of cattle. But when the live weight of an animal is known, the advantage is on the side of the grazier. He only knows how the animal has been fed, and how long it has been grazing, and he therefore must be the better judge of the percentage the dead weight will bear to the live weight. This requires some skill and experience, but is soon learned, and the price per lb. must always remain a matter of bargain.

“I find that twenty-five three-year-old well-bred Canadian stores, fresh in condition, cost me this autumn 25s. per cwt. live weight. I made a good shot at guessing the lot at 10 cwt., but when I tried to name the weight of individual bullocks I was terribly out, *and I cannot see now where the difference of one cwt. a bullock is*; but the scales must know better than my hand and eye.

“Yearling Irish steers cost me 21s. per cwt., but I had to buy them first at 7l. 10s. each, and weigh them afterwards.”

Duke of Richmond's Answer.—“I cannot suggest a better mode of proceeding. The principle is sound. I have a weighing machine on my home farm at Goodwood.”

Lord Walsingham's Answer.—“I quite agree that a much more accurate estimate of the value of animals can be arrived at by ascertaining weight

than by any other method, and I can offer no suggestion for any improvement on the system proposed."

Mr. Albert Grey's Answer.—"Your question only admits of one answer. You might as well ask me 'Do two and two make four,' or can I suggest any better method of computation?

"I cannot understand how any farmer with the faintest glimmering of common sense can maintain that the power you have secured for him of ascertaining at his option the actual live weight of the cattle he buys and sells at fairs and auction marts is not a great advantage to him.

"He may in some instances be too stupid to realise this, but this cannot be helped.

"The principle of ascertaining the actual weight of any commodity whose value chiefly depends on weight, is so obviously sound that it is certain to be adopted more and more as farmers emancipate themselves from the tyranny of custom.

"The price of cattle, like the price of everything else, depends on two things—quantity and quality.

"No one can relieve the farmer of the necessity of using his judgment when deciding what value to put on an animal because of its quality; but, as the value of an animal depends on the amount of the 'quality,' it is obvious he must come nearer the mark if his calculation is based on fact, i. e.

the weight ascertained by the scales instead of on the conjecture of the tape or eye."

Lord Waterford's Answer.—"No, certainly not."

Lord Coventry's Answer.—"Certainly not. It has always been a matter of surprise to me that a question of such vast importance to tenant farmers has not been taken up by the County Chambers of Agriculture."

Mr. Henry Chaplin's Answer.—"In answer to your question, I am unable to suggest any mode of proceeding which appears to be better calculated to attain the object which you have in view; and I venture to think that the agricultural community are greatly indebted to you for the exertions you have made for so long a period in this matter.

"In guessing at the weight of live cattle, the advantage, I suspect, in the majority of cases, is with the butcher and the dealer rather than the farmer. Now the latter has the means, at the various markets, fairs and auction marts throughout the country, of ascertaining accurately the live weight of his own cattle before he sells them, if he desires to do so. Ample facilities for this purpose have been provided by the Acts of 1887 and 1891 for the passing of which I do not hesitate to say, with a full knowledge of all the circumstances (for I was responsible for the latter measure in Cabinet

myself) the chief credit undoubtedly belongs to you."

Mr. Albert Pell's Answer.—"The method advocated and pursued in practice by Mr. Westley Richards in the sale and purchase of cattle is, to my mind, entirely the reasonable and right one. Its adoption is universal in the United States of America, and is approved by experience. The recent Acts of Parliament under which those who prefer exactitude to conjecture are assisted in the open market are very serviceable. I can suggest no better way of proceeding."

Sir J. B. Lawes' Answer.—"I consider that every landowner and tenant farmer in the United Kingdom owes a great debt to Mr. Westley Richards, first, by his own exertion obtaining Acts of Parliament which compelled authorities to erect weighing machines where stock was exposed for sale, and requiring the Board of Agriculture to publish live-weight prices; and, secondly, by bringing together farmers and dealers in various localities, and by a system of block test competitions, showing how accurately the dead weight of an animal can be ascertained by its live weight. The great importance of selling stock by live weight is shown in these block test competitions by the fact that the guesses of the farmer were almost always considerably below the actual dead

weight of the animal, their estimates being founded not upon the probable weight of the carcass, but upon what they expected to get from the butcher."

Lord Leconfield's Answer.—"I have for the last three years sold all my fat stock from my home farm by weight, taking the live weight prices of stock from the *Times* quotations as my guide as to price.

"The deal is rapidly effected, and hardly ever have its results been a subject of dissatisfaction to buyer or seller. I can suggest no better mode of conducting a fair sale."

Mr. Walter Gilbey's Answer.—"I cordially appreciate all you have done to obtain facilities for ascertaining the live weight in our markets and auction marts, being confident that it is the only sound mode of conducting our sales of fat stock.

"I have for a long time past sold my stock to the butcher by live weight, and when sending animals to an auction mart, I always send a note of the live weight and insist on that weight being announced when the animal is put up for sale. I fail to see in what other way matters could be improved."

Lord Bradford's Answer.—"I cannot suggest a better mode of proceeding, and I quite approve of your mode. I am practising it myself."

Lord Wantage's Answer.—"I can suggest no better mode for the sale and purchase of cattle than that advocated by Mr. Westley Richards. In cattle dealing it is very essential to obtain an exact estimate of the weight of the animals. This can only be done by the use of the scales. Experience shows that farmers are often very much out in their judgment of the weight of cattle."

Lord Spencer's Answer.—"I have put up two weighbridges for cattle, one in the village open to any farmers who wish to use it, one in the park for my own use. One farmer uses the first-named weighbridge regularly, and attaches value to the system. I weigh cattle here.

"On one occasion a farmer who weighed his cattle had a dispute with a dealer, and was so sure of the proper price, owing to the weighbridge, that he held out, and two days later the dealer gave him what he asked. Had he been trading under the old system, he would certainly have given way to the dealer.

"I attach great value to the system. In selling fat bullocks, the farmer is at a manifest disadvantage compared with the butcher who is buying continually, and not only buying, but proving the correctness of his estimate by actual proof of weight. Farmers rarely appreciate this. It is certainly most desirable to eliminate as many elements of calculation or guesswork as possible

in bargaining for the value of cattle. The weigh-bridge enables the farmer to make almost a certainty of the weight which he is selling; his skill and knowledge and judgment must always tell in assessing the quality of the meat which he has produced."

Mr. W. C. Little's Answer.—"I am not able to suggest a better way of conducting sales of fat cattle than the one proposed. The difficulty is in overcoming the prejudices of the buyers."

Answers also received from the following, which convey substantially the same meaning as the foregoing, all approving of the principle of weighing as a basis of calculation :—

Mr. R. E. Turnbull.

Mr. Carrington Smith.

Mr. Rowlandson.

Mr. T. Bell, Newcastle Farmers' Club.

Mr. Treadwell.

Mr. Gilpin Brown.

Mr. Marjoribanks' Bailiff.

Major Craigie.

This method is, I believe, practically the same that the cattle trade adopt in America and several other countries in Europe.

It will be seen that the use of the scales is optional. There is no compulsion of any kind. I

am strongly of opinion that every one should be allowed to carry on his business operations in the manner he thinks most advantageous to himself. It is, therefore, impossible for the proposition to do farmers any harm if they prefer their own method of doing business.

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

ASHWELL.

Now that weighing machines will be supplied Sale notes.
in all the principal markets, farmers should require both salesmen and auctioneers to have the cattle weighed that they consign to them for sale. They should also require them to furnish a proper form of sale note of the same kind that it is the universal custom of brokers to render to consigners of all commodities consigned to them for sale, stating the quantity of the commodity consigned (that is the weight), the price realised, a detailed account of the charges, and the commission charged.

SALE NOTE.

Live Weight.	No.	Lot.	Purchaser.	Breed and Quality.	Average Price per Live Stone.	Price per Head.	Total Amount Realised.
St. lb.					s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
				Commission			
				Bankers' Charges and			
				Market Expenses ..			
				Hay and Layerage ..			
				Drover			
				Railway Freight ..			
				Steamboat			
				Trucking, Weighing			
				Telegram			
				To Draft ..			

Both salesmen and auctioneers are quite willing to supply sale notes of this kind if asked for by consigners. It is for farmers to require this information to be given to them. I have had many letters advocating compulsory weighing of cattle and compulsory delivery of sale notes, giving the weights, &c. I am strongly opposed to any compulsory measures in matters of this kind. The State should not be asked to do what people can

do for themselves. The public have a right to expect that proper facilities should be provided by the Government for carrying on business in an efficient manner. This has already been done in connection with the cattle trade, by the two Weighing of Cattle Acts of 1887 and 1891. It is also the duty of the Government to protect the public against fraud as far as possible. This is also done by the Government without any extra cost. These sale notes would be a valuable record of the price they realised for their cattle, and which they could compare with the official live weight quotations that will be published by the Board of Agriculture.

The conditions under which farming operations are now carried on, are completely changed by the free importation of every kind of agricultural produce, and this competition renders it necessary that a very accurate system of accounts should be kept in order to show *where* profit or loss arises, so that losses, when they occur, may, if possible, be avoided in future. A banker's book does not do this; it only shows that a certain sum has been gained or lost, this is not sufficient. The profits on farming are now so small that it cannot be successfully carried on upon borrowed capital. If two or three bad years occur in succession, as is the case at the present time, and capital is lost, it is difficult to replace it out of profits.

PURCHASE AND SALE ACCOUNT.

1891.		1891.	
April 8.		April 8.	
PURCHASE PRICE.		COST PER STONE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
16 Welsh Runts at 17l. each	272 0 0	16 Welsh Runts, 1253 st. = 78 st. 4 lb.* each, at	277 2 6
Carriage from Harborough at 1s. 4½d. each	1 2 6	4s. 5d.* a stone	.. .. .. ..
Commission at 5s. each	4 0 0		
	<u>£277 2 6</u>		<u>£277 2 6</u>
1891.		1891.	
April 8.		Autumn.	
PURCHASE PRICE.		PRICE REALISED.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
16 Welsh Runts cost 4s. 5d. a stone	.. .. .	16 Welsh Runts, 1608 st. 12 lb. = 100 st. 7 lb. each, {	396 6 8
Weight when sold	.. .. .	at 4s. 11½d. a stone..	.. .. .
" bought	.. .. .	Less cake at 29s. each	.. .. .
	16) 355 12	Less selling expenses	.. .. .
			4 16 0
			<u>28 1 0</u>
Gain in live weight	.. 22 3 on each.		
Average percentage of carcass, 58·88.		Deduct cost	.. .. .
A farmer would save the commission of 5s. by buying himself.			368 5 8
			<u>277 2 6</u>
		£ s. d. Gain..	.. .. .
		16)91 3 2	.. .. .
		5 13 6½	£91 3 2
			<u>£91 3 2</u>
			5 13 6½ Gross gain on each.

* These figures are absolutely essential to form a basis of calculation, and cannot be obtained by guessing.

It will be found a convenient guide to future transactions if a simple purchase and sale account is kept as on the preceding page.

By this simple method it will be seen, as soon as cattle are bought, whether they are likely to pay for grazing; it will also show what description of cattle are best suited for the land.

Welsh runts have been bought this autumn at 2s. 10d. and 3s. a live stone, and must pay well for grazing next summer. The price is too low. Store cattle can be produced in Ireland at 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. a live stone to pay the breeders, but not under; and graziers can afford to pay 3s. 9d. and make a fair profit, but not more.

The question of technical education for farmers, now being considered and discussed, is no doubt an important one, as scientific training and more complete technical knowledge are necessary to enable farmers to meet the altered state of prices brought about by foreign competition.

Farmers'
Accounts.

The groundwork of improved education should be the science of arithmetic, now taught in every board school. The farmer should learn first to keep a cash-book and ledger, which would be a true record of all his transactions, and from which profit and loss accounts of a reliable character could be made. Until farmers put this system into practice they can have no accurate knowledge of how they are progressing or where losses occur.

It is the keeping of accurate accounts, with a proper cost-book, that enables our manufacturers to compete successfully with unrestricted importations of every kind. It is the acknowledged and universally adopted principle upon which competition is met, and farmers, as producers of commodities subject to this intense competition, can claim no exemption from the general rule if they wish to succeed in their occupation. It will, of course, give them some additional trouble, but this is a necessary consequence of increased competition, which all producing industries have had to contend with.

Farm accounts of *cost* are difficult to keep, but nevertheless they can be kept, so as to be of great practical value. Balance sheets are easily made, and are necessary to show the net result of the year's transactions, but more than this is wanted. Profit and loss accounts of cattle are also easily kept when live weight is adopted as a basis of calculation, but not otherwise, if the cause of loss is to be ascertained.

Referring to the cattle trade, which is the largest and one of the most important of agricultural industries, no satisfactory cost-book (record of accounts) can be kept without introducing the element of weight as the basis of calculation. It is the only *fact* that can be ascertained on the subject, and my proposition is to substitute this *fact* for a mere matter of opinion, the variations

of opinions being such that they cannot be represented by figures.

It is not sufficient for a banker's account to show *when* losses have been sustained, if it does not also show *where* and *how* they have been incurred. It is this latter knowledge that is required, in order that a repetition of the loss may be met and, if possible, avoided.

The proposition to base calculations on the live weight of cattle is a perfectly practicable one, and not new; but in England the proper means have not been provided for carrying it out. Farmers are good judges of the quality and breed of stock best suited to the land they occupy. This their experience teaches them. But they want more accurate knowledge of the weight they are buying and the weight they are selling, or in other words the quantity to be bought or sold, which is a distinct question from quality, and the answer to which can only be given them by the scales. A weighing machine is as necessary an implement on a stock farm as a plough on an arable farm, if any accurate knowledge of the size, growth, and value of stock is to be obtained.

My own experience is that if the right kind of stock be selected, they will put on 27 or 28 live stone (14 lb.) farm weight during the period of summer grazing. I give from 20s. to 25s. worth of cake in the two months before they are sold.

The whole of this 27 or 28 live stones gain in weight is not the grazier's to sell, as cattle lose fully five or five and a half per cent. in going to market and standing there. There is therefore only 22 or 23 stone available for sale. If a butcher comes to my farm I take him off five and a half per cent. from the farm weight, thereby reducing it to market weight. I consider that if store cattle are to pay the grazier a fair profit, they should be bought in the autumn at 1s. to 1s. 2d. a live stone less than the average price of beef per live stone when they are sold, and if bought about May 1st, at 6d. a live stone less. An official record of live weight prices of store cattle would therefore be a most valuable guide.

This has not been possible the last year or two, except in the case of Canadian stores, which have been brought more in accordance with the price of beef. Autumn buying of stores must depend upon the means a farmer has of keeping them through the winter without losing weight, and it is desirable that grazing farms should have a little arable land attached, though details of this kind are well known to all practical farmers. The price of stores will, of course, always be subject to variations, but if farmers would accustom themselves to take the weight of their store cattle at the time of purchase, it would be a check upon their own judgment and would help to

check the great variety of prices often given for the same class of cattle, in the same market, on the same day, and in a short time they would know what they could afford to give. The live weight at the time of purchase would also be a valuable record, as by taking the live weight when sold fat, it would enable the graziers to see what their land had done, and also which breed of cattle had fared best. All this is at present conjecture and matter of opinion, but it would be far more satisfactory to have it as a matter of fact. The buying in of stores is a most important question to all feeders of cattle. The smaller cattle of good quality under 90 stone alive at market make the most money, and do not come so much into competition with the American killed beef as does the larger class of Shorthorns weighing 100 live stone and upwards.

With respect to the sale of fat stock, the quality and condition will determine the price per live stone, and of this the farmers who have fed the cattle will be the best judges. They will soon learn the percentage of dressed meat the stock are likely to yield. A moderately well-fed animal will yield about 57 per cent., the better fed animals as much as 60 or 61 per cent. All cattle will, of course, vary more or less. When cake is given to cattle on the grass they do not all get the same quantity, some are very greedy feeders, and get more than their share, some are very slow

and indifferent feeders, and do not get their fair share; this alone will make a difference in the percentage of meat they yield, which must be arrived at by taking averages. If cattle are picked as they are ready to be sold, a good judge will estimate their carcass yield to within one or two per cent. Many butchers are very good judges and keep accurate accounts of the live weight of the cattle they buy, as well as the dead weight of meat they yield, and are perfectly able to buy their fat cattle by live weight, and many do so. A farmer may kill a test beast or two in average condition, and, taking the fasted live weight and dead weight, this will be a guide to the percentage of meat they are likely to yield. Or he may sell a few to a local butcher by weight, and see them weighed, and in this way much valuable information may be gained. In a short time the system would become familiar, and no possible harm could result from adding such reliable information to a farmer's present knowledge, as it would do away with one of the two great elements of uncertainty that now exist, and assist his judgment in valuing the other.

I have no doubt many farmers say, butchers will not buy by live weight, and therefore we cannot sell in that way; but that is no reason why they should not weigh their cattle in order to ascertain their value for themselves. When they get the live weight of their cattle at market they

have only to look at the live-weight quotations which appear in the *Times* every Tuesday morning to see if their cattle realise their live-weight value according to their quality.

The following is a simple form of balance sheet for a grazing farm. It is the form I have adopted, and find it is all that is necessary, as it enables all the items of expenditure to be watched and compared each year.

Dr.

Statement of Payments and Receipts in respect of occupation of Land

Payments.			Valuation 1st May, 1891—		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
1889.	£	s. d.	Value of tenant right brought forward from 1890—					
Cake ..	190	8 2	$\frac{1}{4}$ value of cake for 1889,					
In hand	38	10 7	$\frac{1}{4}$ 151l. 17s. 7d.					
	£151	17 7	37l. 19s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.		70		5 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	
1890.	£	s. d.	$\frac{1}{4}$ value of cake for 1890,					
Cake ..	131	11 0	$\frac{1}{4}$ 129l. 3s. 6d.					
In hand	2	7 6	32l. 5s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.					
	£129	3 6	Cake in hand, 30th April, 1891		2		7 6	
			Hay in hand, 30th April, 1891 (1890 hay), 15 tons, at 4l. per ton		60		0 0	
			Live Stock in hand—				132 12 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	
May 1, 1891			9 Polled Heifers, wintered 1890, 612 st. = 68 st. each, valued at 4s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per live stone		141		0 0	
May 1, 1891			52 Stores in hand, 4270 st. to be fed 1891		889		11 8	
			Purchases of Live Stock—				1030 11 8	
Oct. 20, 1891			20 Welsh Runts to be wintered, 1491 st. = 74 st. 8 lb. each, at 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per live stone		296		10 0	
Oct. 24, 1891			10 Polled Angus to be wintered, 655 st. 6 lb. = 65 st. 7 lb. each, at 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per live stone		130		13 0	
			2 Pigs bought		2		0 0	
			Purchased Food—				429 3 0	
			Oil cake, 37l.; cotton cake, 56l. 14s. 3d.; carriage, 3l. 3s. 6d.		96		17 9	
			Feeding stuffs for cart horses, &c.		21		4 6	
			Rent—				118 2 3	
			W. R.'s own land, 52 acres at 46s. an acre, including Land Tax, 1s. 3d. an acre, 3l. 4s. 9d.; Tithes, 3s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre, 9l. 11s. 10d. ..		119		12 0	
			Poor Rate, 2s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre, 5l. 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; Highway Rate, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. an acre, 2l. 7s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.		7		17 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	
			Income Tax. B.		1		15 11	
			Forward ..		129		5 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
			Carried forward ..				1710 9 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	

GRAZING FARM, ASHWELL, RUTLAND.

35

for the purposes of Husbandry for the year ending April 30th, 1892.

£r.

Receipts.	Sales of Live Stock—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dec. 1891	52 live stock sold fat, 5291 st. 3 lb. }	1247	17	11			
Dec. 1891	9 Polled Heifers sold fat, 798 st. 7 lb., at 5s. 1½d. a live stone }	205	18	1			
Jan. 1892	1 Pig, present to Walker ..	4	9	1			
Jan. 1892	1 Pig sold fat	3	15	8			
					1462	0	9
	<i>Live Stock in hand—</i>						
April 30, 1892 ..	20 Welsh Runts, wintered 1891, 1421 st. = 71 st. 1 lb. each, at 4s. 6¾d. a live stone }	320	13	3			
April 30, 1892 ..	10 Polled Angus wintered 1891, 637 st. = 63 st. 9 lb. each, at 4s. 3d. a live stone }	135	9	9			
					456	3	0
	<i>Farm Produce—</i>						
	Farm produce sold to stable and house }	130	10	0			
	Grass keep of one nag horse (brood mare) }	10	0	0			
					140	10	0
	<i>Hay in hand—</i>						
	Hay in hand (15 tons, at 4l. per ton), 1891 hay }	..			60	0	0
	Carried forward ..				2118	13	9

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments.	Brought Forward ..				1710	9	8½
	Rent— <i>contd.</i> Forward ..	129	5	6¾			
	Salterford, 13 ac. 2 ro. 23 po., at 46s. an acre, including Land Tax, 1s. 5d. an acre, 19s. 8d.; Tithes, 2s. 8d. an acre, 1l. 17s. 3d. Poor Rate, 1s. 10¼d. an acre, 1l. 5s. 8d.; Highway Rate, 9½d. an acre, 1l.	31	12	6			
	Income Tax. B.	1	16	8			
	Bromley, 18 ac. 3 ro. 31 po., at 50s. an acre, including Land Tax, 2s. 1¾d. an acre, 2l. 0s. 9½d.; Tithes, 4s. 3¾d. an acre, 4l. 1s. 11½d. Poor Rate, 2s. 1¼d. an acre, 2l. 0s. 1¾d.; Highway Rate, 10¾d. an acre, 16s. 9½d.	0	6	2			
	Labour—	47	4	0			
	Labour on the farm (no extra labour)	2	16	11½			
	Labour for house and stables				213	1	10
	Haymaking	48	0	0			
	Manures—	31	10	0			
	Nitrate of soda	7	0	3	86	10	3
	Expenditure during Year—				14	8	0
	Tradesmen's accounts for goods supplied or work done on farm	11	9	2			
	Midland Railway, carriage fat beasts to London ..	11	9	4			
	Midland Railway, carriage farm sundries	2	12	4			
	Keeping 27 acres aftermath including about 10 tons of hay for wintering 30 store beasts	29	0	0			
	Sundries	2	19	0			
	Debts owing				57	9	10
	Gain				2081	19	7½
					93	16	4
					£2175	15	11½

61 Beasts had cake and were sold fat.

Average gain in weight, 22 st. 4 lb. each in 1891.

„ gross gain in money, 4l. 19s. 1¼d. each in 1891.

„ cost of cake consumed, 1l. 12s. 6½d. each in 1891.

„ weight of cake consumed, 4 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lb. each in 1891,
or 492 lb., or 9 lb. a day each.

Receipts.				Brought forward ..				£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
1890. £ s. d.				<i>Tenant Right—</i>				..			2118 13 9		
Cake .. 131 11 0				Value of Tenant Right for									
In hand 2 7 6				1891 carried forward to									
				1892—									
				$\frac{1}{4}$ value of cake for 1890,									
				$\frac{1}{4}$ 129l. 3s. 6d.									
				32l. 5s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.									
				$\frac{1}{4}$ value of cake for 1891,				57 2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$					
				$\frac{1}{4}$ 99l. 5s. 3d.									
				24l. 16s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.									
1891. £ s. d.				Debts owing to Farm .. ..				..			57 2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Cake .. 99 5 3													

84 acres				£ s. d.			
				93 16 4			
				1 2 4 an acre			
Add difference in Tenant Right				0 3 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ „			
				£1 5 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ „			

Number of acres	84
Rent per acre, including Land Tax and Tithes	46s. and 50s.
Labour per acre: Shepherds' wages	11s. 5d.
Profit per acre, less tenant right	1l. 5s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Returns per acre	19l. 8s. 4d.
Capital per acre	18l. 19s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

£2175 15 11 $\frac{1}{4}$

EXPLANATION OF BALANCE SHEET.

The method of dealing with the unexhausted manurial value of cake consumed has been to take the amount of Tenant Right given by the Agricultural Holdings Act to the off-going tenant, which is one-half of the cake *consumed on the farm* the previous year. It is the custom of valuers in this district to give a quarter for two years, which amounts to the same thing. I therefore take this sum, which is a true figure for which vouchers exist, and is not a valuation, and make the first entry on the debtor side of the account. I then enter all the stock in hand on the credit side at what it has cost me after wintering. I also buy store stock in October to winter on the grass. This I enter at cost price, on the debtor side, giving the weight and cost per live stone. In order to finish wintering these stores after they have eaten off my rough grass, I took some unstocked eddish with the hay on it. This is let by auction and for which I paid 29l. This you will see on the debtor side of the account. On the credit side I put all the sales and the store stock in hand. To the thirty stores bought in October I add the 29l. paid for the unstocked after-math and hayricks, give the live weight and the price they have cost per live stone. These are true figures, and give the actual cost instead of a valuation, which is only a matter of opinion.

I make my account up to the 30th April, as that is the end of a grazier's winter in ordinary seasons, and I have only the cake I give them to add to their cost when sold fat. Then at the end on the credit side I put the Tenant Right, which is carried forward to the next year's account. This form of account is only adapted for a grazier's farm, but it is suitable for a grazing farm of any size. I have only a very small farm for the purpose of working out this live-weight question. I feed 62 bullocks on 62 acres, the remainder I mow for my own horses, and I have 3 acres to grow mangolds to give my stores in April before the grass comes. I have got too much capital embarked, it ought to be done with 1200l. Hitherto I have found the capital out of my own private account. I am now keeping a separate farm bank account and a separate farm cash-book, and next year I shall be able to make out an absolutely accurate balance sheet.

Valuation of implements is left out as they are the same every year, and are kept in repair and charged in tradesmen's bills.

Two cart-horses are kept; they are taken as the same value every year; one is used for the house and stable, and is paid for by the house to the farm account, as well as the labour, hay, poultry, eggs, &c., had by the house and stables from the farm, and included in the amount of 130l. 10s. which appears under the head of farm produce sold to stable and house.

The following tables show the live-weight gain made by the different breeds of cattle during the first twelve weeks on grass alone, from 1st May till the end of July, and from the 1st August, when they begin to get cake, till the time they are sold; it also shows the total gain per 1000 lb. in weight. It is necessary to take the gain per 1000 lb., as it equalises the difference between large and small cattle. A record of this kind kept over a number of years cannot fail to be of great value; it shows what the land will do, and which breed of cattle is best suited to the land, also which pays best. It will be seen the greatest gains do not always take place when there is the greatest rainfall and most grass.

TABLE No. 1. A.
 GRAZING SUMMER 1889.
 YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1890.—TOTAL GAIN OF CATTLE IN FARM WEIGHT AND MARKET WEIGHT
 IN DIFFERENT BREDS.

Date when bought.	No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight after 10 days' rest from time of buying.	Total Average Farm Weight, May 1st, 1889.	Total Average Farm Weight when sold.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight from May 1st to time of selling.	Total Average Market Weight from time of buying to time of selling.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight per 1000 lb. from May 1st to time of selling.	Total Average Per-centage of Carcass.	Total Average Price per live stone realised.	Total Average Weekly Gain in Farm Weight on each Animal from May 1st.	Total Average Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. in Farm Weight on each Animal from May 1st.
1888. Oct. 3	20	Welsh Bunka ..	st. lb. 59 0	st. lb. 63 12	st. lb. 88 5	st. lb. 24 7	st. lb. 20 6	st. 23·00	per cent. 58·53	s. d. 4 6½	st. lb. 0 12½	st. lb. 0 12½*
1889. May 8	20	Cross-bred Oxen	55 8	..	86 9	31 1	25 8	31·22	57·55	4 9	1 0½	0 10½
May 15	16	Cross-bred Heifers	54 8	..	83 7	28 13	24 7	29·94	59·00	5 0½	0 13½	1 0
Total	56											

* Wintered 1888.

NORZ.—Have only *total* gains of cattle, including grass gains and cake gains.

Rainfall in May, 5·75 in.; June, 0·42 in.; July, 2·34 in.; August, 2·96 in.; September, 2·05 in.; total 13·52 in. for the grazing summer of 1889.

GRAZING SUMMER 1890.

TABLE No. 2. B.

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1891.—GAINS OF CATTLE IN DIFFERENT BREEDS.

No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight, May 1st, 1890.	Total Average Farm Weight on Grass before getting any Cake.	Total Average Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal on Grass only, no Cake.	Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal.	This is on Grass only, no Cake. 12 weeks.
16	Cross-bred Polled Oxen..	st. lb. 69 8	st. lb. 83 4	st. lb. 13 10	st. lb. 1 1	
5	Pure-bred Polled Galloways..	68 0	79 8	11 8	0 13	
20	Welsh Runts ..	72 2	85 2	13 0	1 0	
7	Shorthorns ..	76 8	95 2	18 8	1 4	
5	Black Polled Irish (Heathcote) ..	66 5½	75 3	8 11½	0 10	
9	Cross-bred Polled Heifers ..	53 9	67 4	13 9	1 4½	
62	Total.					

GRAZING SUMMER 1890. TABLE No. 3. B.
 YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1891.—GAINS OF CATTLE IN DIFFERENT BREEDS—continued.

No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight when commenced to get Cuke.	Total Average Farm Weight when sold.	Total Average Gain on Cuke and Grass.	Total Average Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal on Cuke and Grass.	Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal.	This is on Cuke and Grass, till sold.
16	Cross-bred Polled Oxen	st. lb. 83 4	st. lb. 96 8	st. lb. 13 4	st. 10·55	st. lb. 0 9	
5	Pure-bred Polled Galloways.. ..	79 8	90 2	10 8	8·89	0 8½	
20	Welsh Runts	85 2	95 12	10 10	8·45	0 8½	
7	Shorthorns	95 2	105 4	10 2	7·23	0 8	
5	Black Polled Irish (Heathcote)	75 3	88 5	13 2	11·47	0 7½	
9	Cross-bred Polled Heifers*	67 4	..	0 13	0·09		
62	Total			Winted 1890.			

* The 9 Cross-bred Polled Heifers were wintered in 1890, and had no Cuke.

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1891.—TOTAL GAIN OF CATTLE IN FARM WEIGHT AND MARKET WEIGHT
IN DIFFERENT BREEDS.

Date when bought.	No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight after 10 days' rest from time of buying.	Total Average Farm Weight, May 1st, 1890.	Total Average Farm Weight when sold.	Total Average Farm Weight from May 1st to time of selling.	Total Average Gain in Market Weight from time of buying to time of selling.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight 1000 lb. from May 1st to time of selling.	Total Average Per-centage of Carcass.	Total Average Price per live stone realised.	Total Average Weekly Gain in Farm Weight on each Animal from May 1st.	Total Average Gain per 1000 lb. in Farm Weight on each Animal from May 1st.
1889.			st. lb.	st. lb.	st. lb.	st. lb.	st. lb.	st.	per cent.	s. d.	st. lb.	st. lb.
Nov. 23	16	{ Cross-bred Polled } { Oxen* }	67 1	69 8	96 8	27 0	24 0	23 21	58 99	4 7	0 13½	0 12
"	5	{ Pure-bred Polled } { Galloways* .. }	63 0	68 0	90 2	22 2	22 7	20 00	59 95	4 11½	0 11	0 10½
1890.												
April 2	20	Welsh Runts ..	67 5	72 2	95 12	23 10	23 10	20 16	57 47	4 6½	0 13	0 11
April 19	7	Shorthorns ..	76 8	76 8	105 4	28 10	22 0	22 55	57 89	4 7½	1 2	0 13
May 21	5	Black Polled Irish	66 5	..	88 5	22 0	17 8	20 31	57 15	4 10½	0 9½	0 8½
April 11	9	{ Cross-bred Polled } { Heifers* }	51 1	53 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 6½	0 8
Total	62											

* Wintered 1889.

† Wintered 1890.

NOTE.—Rainfall in May, 1.95 in.; June, 1.77 in.; July, 2.22 in.; August, 2.35 in.; September, 0.77 in.; total, 9.06 in. for grazing summer of 1890.

GRAZING SUMMER 1891.

TABLE No. 5. C.

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1892.—GAINS OF CATTLE IN DIFFERENT BREDS.

No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight, May 2nd, 1891.	Total Average Farm Weight on Grass before getting any Cake.	Total Average Gain on Grass only, no Cake.	Total Average Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal on Grass only, no Cake.	Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal.	This is on Grass only, no Cake, 12 weeks.
16	Welsh Bunts	st. lb. 82 6	st. lb. 96 4	st. lb. 13 12	st. 11·07	st. lb. 0 13½	
36	Irish Shorthorns, Dishorned	81 0	98 0	17 0	13·56	1 1½	
9	Cross-bred Polled Heifers	68 0	83 0	15 0	14·19	1 2½	
61	Total.						

GRAZING SUMMER 1891.

TABLE No. 6. C.

No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight when com- menced to get Cake.	Total Average Farm Weight when sold.	Total Average Gain on Cake and Grass.	Total Average Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal on Cake and Grass.	Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal.	This is on Cake and Grass, till sold.
16	Welsh Bunts	st. lb. 96 4	st. lb. 106 3	st. lb. 9 13	st. 7·00	st. lb. 0 9	
36	Irish Shorthorns, Dishorned	98 0	109 6	11 6	7·87	0 8½	
9	Cross-bred Polled Heifers	83 0	94 8	11 8	9·30	1 0	
61	Total.						

TABLE No. 7. C.

GRAZING SUMMER 1891.

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1892.—TOTAL GAINS OF CATTLE IN FARM WEIGHT AND MARKET WEIGHT IN DIFFERENT BREEDS.

Date when bought.	No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight after 10 days' rest from time of buying.	Total Average Farm Weight when sold.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight from time of buying to time of selling.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight from May 2nd, to time of selling.	Total Average Farm Weight 1000 lb., from May 2nd of selling.	Total Average Percentage of Carcass.	Total Average Price per live stone realised.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight on each Animal from May 2nd.	Total Average Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. in Farm Weight on each Animal from May 2nd.
1891.			st. lb.	st. lb.	st. lb.	st. lb.	st.	Per cent.	s. d.	st. lb.	st. lb.
April 8	16	Welsh Rants ..	78 4	106 3	23 11	22 3	18 02	58·88	4 11½	1 0½	0 11½
" 17	36	Irish Shorthorns, Dishorned* ..	83 11	109 6	28 6	19 8	21 32	58·56	4 8½	1 1½	0 12
1890.											
April 11	9	Cross-bred Polled Heifers† ..	..	94 8	26 8	20 10	23 34	58·29	5 1½	1 3½	1 1½
Total	61										

* 109 st. 6 lb. Farm Weight when sold is the average of 34, 2 went wrong.

† Wintered 1890.

Rainfall in May, 3·23 in.; June, 3·94 in.; July, 3·09 in.; August, 4·32 in.; September, 1·06 in.; total, 15·64 in. for grazing summer of 1891.

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1893.—GAINS OF CATTLE IN DIFFERENT BREEDS.

No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight, May 1st, 1892.	Total Average Farm Weight, on Grass before getting any Cake.	Total Average Gain on Grass only, no Cake.	Total Average Gain per 1000 lb. Animal on each no Cake.	Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal.	This is on Grass only, no Cake, 12 weeks.
19	Welsh Runts "Wintered"	st. lb. 71 9	st. lb. 90 0	st. lb. 18 5	st. 16·23	st. lb. 1 3½	
10	Polled Angus "Wintered"	.. .. 64 5	.. .. 82 3	.. .. 17 12	.. .. 17·40	.. .. 1 7	
32	Polled Irish "Harboro" *	.. .. 66 10	.. .. 85 13	.. .. 19 3	.. .. 17·99	.. .. 1 6	
61	Total						

GRAZING SUMMER 1892.

TABLE No. 9. D.

No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight when commenced to get Cake.	Total Average Farm Weight when sold.	Total Average Gain on Cake and Grass.	Total Average Gain per 1000 lb. Animal on each Cake and Grass.	Weekly Gain per 1000 lb. on each Animal.	This is on Cake and Grass, till sold.
19	Welsh Runts "Wintered"	st. lb. 90 0	st. lb. 100 12	st. lb. 10 12	st. 8·12	st. lb. 0 6½	
10	Polled Angus "Wintered"	.. .. 82 3	.. .. 91 5	.. .. 9 2	.. .. 7·52	.. .. 0 6¾	
32	Polled Irish "Harboro" ..	.. .. 85 13	.. .. 95 8	.. .. 9 9	.. .. 7·59	.. .. 0 6½	
61	Total						

* These 32 Polled Irish were weighed on May 7th, 1892, after resting one week.

TABLE No. 10. D.
GRAZING SUMMER 1892.
YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1893.—TOTAL GAIN OF CATTLE IN FARM WEIGHT AND MARKET WEIGHT
IN DIFFERENT BREEDS.

Date when bought.	No.	Description of Cattle.	Total Average Farm Weight after 10 days' rest from time of buying.	Total Average Farm Weight, May 1st, 1892.	Total Average Farm Weight when sold.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight from May 1st to time of selling.	Total Average Market Weight from time of buying to time of selling.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight per 1000 lb. April 30 to time of selling.	Total Average Percentage of Carcass.	Total Average Price per live stone realised.	Total Average Gain in Farm Weight on each Animal from May 1st.	Total Average Weekly Gain in Farm Weight per 1000 lb. on each Animal from May 1st.
1891. Oct. 20	19	Welsh Runts *	st. lb. 74 8	st. lb. 72 2	st. lb. 100 12	st. lb. 28 10	st. lb. 21 4	st. 23·71	per cent. 58·64	s. d. 4 10	st. lb. 0 13½	st. lb. 0 11½
Oct. 24	10	Polled Angus *	65 7	64 5	91 5	27 0	21 2	24·77	59·50	4 10	1 1	0 13½
1892. April 30	32	Polled Irish	66 10	..	95 8	28 12	23 9	25·40	59·58	4 10	0 13½	0 13
Total	61											

* Wintered 1891.

NOTE.—Rainfall in May, 2·43 in.; June, 2·23 in.; July, 2·38 in.; August, 1·70 in.; September, 2·67 in. Total, 11·41 in. for grazing summer of 1892.

I have no doubt there are plenty of experienced farmers who could make more money at grazing than I can, and have much greater knowledge of the business.

I only say the principle I have adopted and recommended in the paper "Objects of Weighing" is the right principle, and no one has yet been able to suggest a better method, though numbers of practical and experienced men have been asked if they could do so. Carefully watching expenditure and keeping a proper record of results arising from that expenditure is an important factor in all grazing operations. I find I have much yet to learn about all these important details.

My experience on my own land is that certain breeds of cattle have done the best, as is shown by the tables. I feed my cattle till I estimate they will yield 59 per cent. of carcass of their market live weight. In some seasons it requires a little more cake than others; the cost of the cake amounting to 30s. or 35s. each, and some of the last to go off as much as 40s. It does not pay me to feed cattle to dress on an average a higher percentage than this (59 per cent.), and I find butchers are perfectly satisfied with it (provided the cattle are of sufficiently good quality) till about Christmas, when they prefer Scotch and Norfolk stall-fed beasts, that dress a higher percentage, often as high as 61 and 62 per cent., as they have

more suet. I only give these statements as the result of my own experience.

The balance sheet or receipt and payment account I hope to be able to improve in some of the details another year. The figures are substantially correct, as they are all true figures taken from a cash-book. I am now keeping a separate farm bank account and a separate farm cash-book. The things had for the house and stables are paid for, and go to the farm account, the same as if they were purchased from any other source, and at market prices. I do not give this as a final statement, and am open to any suggestion, the object being to get a simple form of account that any farmer can keep; but the foundation of all accounts is a cash-book, properly balanced every month, or oftener.

Grazing, I think, could be carried on with greater advantage if it had a certain proportion of arable land attached to it. It also wants to be carried on on a larger scale than mine is. I cannot feed cattle on the grass, even with cake, to dress so high a percentage as the Scotch-fed cattle that come to Islington from Aberdeen. They are cattle that are fed in yards or boxes, and I have no doubt get plenty of cake and other food, with turnips and oat straw, both of excellent quality. I have no means of knowing the cost of feeding them, nor can I tell accurately the percentage of

carcass they yield, as they lose more live weight coming from Aberdeen to Islington than mine do going to Islington; mine are only twelve hours on the journey, and lose on an average $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of their farm weight, while the Aberdeen cattle are thirty-six hours, though they get fed on the Sunday with hay after their arrival. This may in some measure account for the higher percentage they appear to dress, as they are longer fasted than mine are, and lose a greater weight of offal in consequence. I feel sure if I had more knowledge and experience in all these important details I could make more money than I have done, *and it is in this direction* that graziers must look for increasing their profits, which is in their own power, rather than *to protective duties*, which at present they have no means of getting.

PART II.

AN ACCOUNT OF A DISPUTE THAT AROSE WITH A FARMERS' COMMITTEE, WHICH IS ONLY OF LOCAL CONCERN, BUT IS INTERESTING AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE OPPOSITION THAT IS OFFERED TO ANY CHANGE IN OLD AND RECOGNISED CUSTOMS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH MORE SUITABLE THE PROPOSED PLAN MAY BE TO MEET THE CHANGE THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN CONSEQUENCE OF FREE IMPORTATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

Oakham
block
test.

A DISPUTE arose between the Committee of the Oakham Fat Stock Show, who conducted a block test competition at Oakham in December 1891, and Mr. Richards, one of the subscribers to the test prizes, in consequence of the extreme estimates showing diversity of opinion being suppressed. This diversity of opinion is the essence of a block test, and without it the block test itself is of no value, and is simply ridiculous. The test, instead of being a trial of skill, as was intended, was converted into a game of chance or a common lottery, contrary to the printed declaration on the cards which were issued, which cards those who estimated had signed. In the correspondence that followed, the committee charged Mr. Richards with certain things in the local newspapers which were not true, and

refused to withdraw them or give Mr. Richards an opportunity of contradicting them; Mr. Richards failed to get any answer to the statements he made the committee, who always evaded replying to his statements. He, never having got a straightforward answer to any letter he wrote, at last proposed arbitration, and offered to pay all expenses in order to get the dispute amicably settled. The committee took no notice of this offer, and did not even acknowledge the receipt of the letters. Mr. Richards therefore handed over all the correspondence on the subject to an arbitrator, and now publishes the correspondence that took place, and the opinions of those to whom the case was referred, and must leave those who take any interest in the matter, to judge for themselves whether Mr. Richards was guilty of the discreditable conduct with which he was charged in the local newspapers, and whether he had not just ground of complaint at not being supplied with the information which the committee through their secretary agreed to give, and which promised information it was that induced Mr. Richards to give his subscription. Mr. Richards received a letter from Colonel Brocklehurst, dated September 12th, 1892, enclosing certain letters and the Oakham block test card, saying, "Show these letters to Lord Waterford, tell him that the conditions on the card were strictly carried out, and ask him (that being the case) what blame can attach to the com-

mittee." Mr. Richards handed this letter over with the others to Lord Waterford. As Mr. Richards had himself written to the committee on the 9th of August, proposing to refer the matter to arbitration, he was only too glad of an opportunity of submitting any part of the case to both a competent and independent person, and what made it more satisfactory was, that the proposition came from one of his opponents—he might say worst opponents.

Lord
Water-
ford's
reply.

"I have been asked by Mr. Westley Richards to give my opinion upon the difference that has arisen between the Committee of the Oakham Market Show and himself on the subject of a block test competition. I am clearly of opinion that the conditions laid down by Mr. Daniell in his letter of November 21st, 1891, upon which Mr. Westley Richards agreed to subscribe 5*l.*, have not been carried out. That letter would lead one to believe that the ordinary rules of a block test were to be the rules for the competition, as it says, 'I take it, the test is to show the diversity of opinion,' according to the card (card means the account of the test published) which Mr. Westley Richards has shown me. The names of the winners alone were published, and therefore the diversity of opinion between the highest and lowest could not be shown, which, as far as I am aware, is one of the main intentions of the block test.—(Signed) WATERFORD, Sept. 14th, 1892."

Having got Lord Waterford's reply, which will speak for itself, Mr. Richards then handed over the nine letters containing the correspondence that had taken place with the committee and in the newspapers (and which contained the whole case) to Sir John Lawes, who is well known to be one of the best authorities on all agricultural questions in the kingdom, and is particularly well qualified to give an opinion on this particular question, as he was the originator of the block test system as a means of testing the knowledge of both farmers and experts, his first block tests being held as far back as July 1879.

“At the request of Mr. Westley Richards I have gone carefully over the papers and correspondence relating to the block test competition which took place at Oakham in December 1891. I am of opinion that the terms upon which the competition was to be carried on were clearly laid down in a letter dated November 21st, 1891, and addressed to Mr. Westley Richards by the Honorary Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Fletcher R. Daniell. He says, ‘We can arrive at the variation of opinion from the outsides alone (of the envelopes) and obviate individual exposure, which you will admit is not the end we have in view, as I take it the test is to show the diversity of opinion rather than expose individual ignorance. . . . If this meets your approval, I will take care that the details of the

Sir John
Lawes'
opinion.

test is publicly known in the papers.' In a letter to one of the local newspapers Mr. Fletcher R. Daniell says, 'When I first wrote to Mr. Richards I wanted advice and information as to former block tests, but got none.' Mr. Daniell had, however, obtained from Mr. Westley Richards his approval of the plan of the block test competition as contained in the letter of November 21st, and, having paid his subscription, Mr. Westley Richards left the matter in the hands of the committee to carry out the competition in accordance with their own rules. It is my opinion that the committee were bound to carry out the block test competition in accordance with the rules laid down in the letter of November 21st, and to make public the whole of the guesses of the competitors. In suppressing some of the guesses they have acted contrary to their rules, and in doing so have destroyed that which would otherwise have been a useful and instructive lesson. Mr. Westley Richards has done more towards establishing the important practice of selling stock by live weight than the whole body of agriculturists together, and he is naturally much annoyed at finding that in his own county the block test, instead of being carried out with the view of instructing farmers and advancing the cause to which he has devoted so much of his time, has been turned into a 'diversion' rather than a test of skill, or a match of live or dead weight.—(Signed) J. B. LAWES, Rothamsted."

At the same time seven questions were put to Sir J. Lawes, so that all the important points might be answered in a condensed form.

THE POINTS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE OF THE OAKHAM FAT STOCK SHOW AND MR. RICHARDS.

Seven Questions, and Answers by Sir John Lawes.

Points to be determined :—

No. 1.

Q.—Was there an undertaking given by the committee in their letter of the 21st November, 1891, to carry out a block test, as described by them, and to make the detail of the test publicly known in the papers, showing diversity of opinion, that is, the extremes of the guessing, but only publishing the names of the winners, the others being suppressed? The description of a block test as given in the committee's letter is a correct definition of a block test, and one that has been in use without dispute for over thirteen years.

A.—*Having read the letter of November 21st, 1891, I am of opinion that it correctly describes a block test, and the committee are bound by the terms of that letter.*

No. 2.

Q.—Did the committee carry out their agreement with Mr. Richards, which was his inducement to subscribe, and fulfil their undertaking to make

the detail of the test publicly known in the papers, or did they only make part of the details publicly known, omitting the necessary particulars of the highest and lowest guesses which alone constitutes a block test?

A.—No.

No. 3.

Q.—Are committees and other public bodies responsible for undertakings given or promises made by them, and signed by their secretary as secretary?

A.—This is a legal question.

No. 4.

Q.—Did this committee, by taking in all comers who were willing to pay 2s. 6d. for a card, and not confining it to farmers or graziers, or sons of farmers, as required by the declaration made on the card they signed, and also in suppressing the highest and lowest guesses, convert it from a block test into quite a different kind of competition, in short, into nothing less than a common lottery?

A.—They entirely destroyed the value of the block test competition, and converted it into a common lottery.

No. 5.

Q.—Are lotteries of this kind legal or illegal? Mr. Richards is advised that the competition which took place was a lottery, and not a block test, and as such was illegal.

A.—This is a legal question.

No. 6.

Q.—Did the committee ask for information in their letter of the 21st November, 1891, as to the mode in which block tests should be carried out, and did Mr. Richards refuse such information, which is a charge brought against him in the local papers by the committee, and signed by their secretary?

A.—*The committee did not ask for information in their letter of the 21st November, 1891, as to the mode in which block tests should be carried out, but the letter was shown to Mr. Westley Richards, and he approved of the arrangements it contained.*

No. 7.

Q.—Did Mr. Richards suppress information that was important when he quoted part of the committee's letter of November 21st, 1891, in his letter to the local papers dated January 11th, 1892?"

A.—*No information was suppressed.*

The above two charges, Nos. 6 and 7, Mr. Richards considers most important to be answered, as they amount to charges publicly made by the committee of discreditable conduct on his part, and are persisted in after Mr. Richards' most positive denial.

The committee on their part say that I must settle my dispute with Mr. Daniell, their secretary.

A.—Mr. Richards's reply is, that if Mr. Daniell has acted without their knowledge or sanction, as the committee have lately implied that he did, he is their servant, and it is their business to correct or admonish him if he has been guilty of any act they disapprove of. Mr. Richards has nothing whatever to do with him.

But the committee did not do this; they sanctioned and approved of what he had done, and unanimously re-elected him as their secretary.

In consequence of this proceeding, their then chairman resigned the chairmanship and withdrew his name from the committee and severed his connection from the Association; he so strongly disapproved of Mr. Daniell's conduct. His authority as chairman then ceased to exist.

In accordance with the documents shown to me these statements are correct.

The committee also say that they appointed a sub-committee to assist in conducting the test, and that they agreed that only the names of the winners of prizes should be published, with a few other of the best guesses.

Mr. Richards' reply to this is that this sub-committee had no power to alter the conditions of the block test as originally agreed upon. The only persons who had the power to alter the original conditions were the subscribers themselves, who had paid

their money for a particular purpose, and their consent was never asked.

This is correct.

(Signed) J. B. LAWES.

Mr. Richards had proposed a legal reference, but several to whom he mentioned the subject said they thought some one accustomed to agricultural arbitrations would be better, and mentioned the name of Mr. W. C. Little, of Stags' Holt, March. As Mr. Richards did not wish to nominate an arbitrator himself he wrote to Mr. Chaplin (late Minister of Agriculture) to say that Mr. Little had been recommended to him as a proper person to undertake an arbitration in a dispute that had arisen between a committee of farmers and himself, and asked him if he could name any one better for such a purpose.

Mr. Chaplin's reply:—"In reply to your letter of this date and to the question which you put to me, I should have no hesitation in saying, from my personal knowledge of that gentleman as well as from his public reputation, that as a competent and practical authority on all agricultural matters there are few people who stand higher than Mr. William Little, of Stags' Holt.—(Signed) HENRY CHAPLIN, 21 Berkeley Square, W., Oct. 21st, 1892."

SUMMARY of some Opinions expressed by Mr. Little which related to the complaints made by Mr. Richards against the committee, marked A to F in the margin of Mr. Little's report, which can be read by those who are interested in this local competition :—

A.—Letter of 21st November gave a clear outline of the method proposed to be adopted, not a word was said about advice as none was needed.

B.—In asking for arbitration, if given in Mr. Richards' favour, he wished to ask that the charges of refusing to give information and of inaccuracy contained in Mr. Daniell's letter should be withdrawn.

C.—The committee acquiesced in the arrangements which turned the whole proceedings into ridicule.

D.—Mr. Daniell converted what was to be a business affair into a mere guessing competition, and utterly frustrating the object Mr. Richards had in view.

(No one had power to change the kind of competition but the subscribers, and their consent was never asked. I, for one, would never have consented to such a change.—W. R.)

E.—Mr. Little says, "I cannot help feeling that throughout the whole dispute, Mr. Richards has been treated by the committee with scant courtesy, to use the mildest expression that occurs to me."

F.—Mr. Little says “he does not think there was any intention to impute discreditable motives to Mr. Richards.”

Mr. Little admits, in answer to Nos. 6 and 7 questions which he has answered, that there is no proof of the charges brought against me.

(In the five complaints that I make against the committee, it is Nos. 3 and 4 that I must object to, as they are perfectly untrue, and amount to a charge of discreditable conduct, publicly made and never withdrawn.—W. R.)

Mr. Little, continues, “If this be the case, I should be glad to find that some public disclaimer of such imputations had been made.

SUMMARY of Replies to seven questions put to Mr. Little which contain, in a small compass, the substance of the case. They answer all the charges made against Mr. Richards, and show that they were without foundation. Mr. Little's very full detailed statements can be read by those who are sufficiently interested in the matter to go through them. They explain most fully the case from beginning to end.

In answer to question

No. 1.

I am of opinion that there was a distinct understanding on behalf of the committee to

publish the detail of the test, and to show the variation of opinion or the diversity of opinion, and that this undertaking could only be fulfilled by publishing the highest and lowest estimates.

No. 2.

The committee did not carry out the undertaking which was given on their behalf.

No. 3.

Cannot give an opinion upon the legal point of the liability of committees to be bound by the acts of their secretaries, but am distinctly of opinion that such committees are morally bound to carry out to the best of their power promises which have been given by their secretary. Mr. Daniell gave promises to the competitors totally inconsistent with previous pledges. It was impossible to keep both promises.

No. 4.

I am certainly of opinion that the action of the committee destroyed the value of the competition as a block test, and converted it into an ordinary guessing competition (in short a common lottery).

(Mr. Richards has a legal opinion that this was a common lottery and as such was illegal.—W. R.)

No. 5.

A legal question.

No. 6.

I can find no evidence of Mr. Daniell having sought information or assistance. It appears to be an assertion not supported by any proof that assistance was sought, and consequently I cannot find that Mr. Richards refused such assistance.

No. 7.

I am of opinion that Mr. Richards omitted nothing that was material to the point at issue in quoting from the letter of the 21st Nov.

Mr. Little's answer, in his own words, will be found in the answers he gives to the seven questions put to him.

THE POINTS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE
OF THE OAKHAM FAT STOCK SHOW AND MR.
RICHARDS.

Seven Questions, and Answers by Mr. W. C. Little.

Points to be determined :—

No. 1.

Q.—Was there an undertaking given by the committee in their letter of the 21st Nov., 1891, to carry out a block test, as described by them, and to make the detail of the test publicly known in the papers, showing diversity of opinion, that is, the extremes of the guessing, but only

F

publishing the names of the winners, the others being suppressed? The description of a block test as given in the committee's letter is a correct definition of a block test, and one that has been in use without dispute for over thirteen years.

A.—I am of opinion that there was a distinct undertaking on behalf of the committee to publish the detail of the test, and to show the variation of opinion or the diversity of opinion, and that this undertaking could only be fulfilled by publishing the highest and lowest estimates.

No. 2.

Q.—Did the committee carry out their agreement with Mr. Richards, which was his inducement to subscribe, and fulfil their undertaking to make the detail of the test publicly known in the papers; or did they only make part of the details publicly known, omitting the necessary particulars of the highest and lowest guesses, which alone constitute a block test?

A.—The committee did not carry out the undertaking which was given on their behalf.

No. 3.

Q.—Are committees and other public bodies responsible for undertakings given or promises made by them, and signed by their secretary as secretary?

A.—Upon the legal point as to the liability of committees such as the one in question for acts of their

secretary I pronounce no opinion, but I am distinctly of opinion that such committees are morally bound to carry out to the best of their power promises which have been given by their secretary on their behalf. I think that in this case, before the committee can be held responsible for the promises given by Mr. Daniell in his letter of the 21st November, it should be shown that they had cognisance of those promises while they were in a position to fulfil them without committing a breach of faith with others. If it be assumed, for the sake of argument, that the committee, knowing nothing of Mr. Daniell's pledges on their behalf, gave promises to competitors which were totally inconsistent with the previous pledges, as, for instance, that no guesses but those of the prize winners should be disclosed, it would in such a case be impossible to keep both promises, and they would be compelled to decide which promise they could leave unfulfilled with least discredit to themselves. It is not at all clear to me that the committee knew what they were pledged to by Mr. Daniell's letter.

No. 4.

Q.—Did this committee, by taking in all comers who were willing to pay 2s. 6d. for a card, and not confining it to farmers or graziers, or sons of farmers, as required by the declaration made on the card they signed, and also in suppressing the highest and lowest guesses, convert it from a block test into quite a different kind of

competition, in short, into nothing less than a common lottery?

A.—I am certainly of opinion that if the committee acted in the manner described in this question, their action destroyed the value of the competition as a block test, and converted it into an ordinary guessing competition. Whether as such it would come within the definition of a common lottery, I shall not express an opinion.

No. 5.

Q.—Are lotteries of this kind legal or illegal? Mr. Richards is advised that the competition which took place was a lottery and not a block test, and as such was illegal.

A.—This I am unable to answer.

No. 6.

Q.—Did the committee ask for information in their letter of the 21st Nov., 1891, as to the mode in which block tests should be carried out, and did Mr. Richards refuse such information, which is a charge brought against him in the local papers by the committee and signed by their secretary?

A.—Mr. Daniell, writing as honorary secretary, did in his letter of the 21st Nov., express his desire to hear what Mr. Richards' wishes were; but I can find no other evidence of his having sought information or assistance. It appears that Mr. Richards furnished Mr. Daniell with a copy of the card used in the

Stirling Block Test, and that he did immediately after the receipt of the letter of the 21st November intimate his satisfaction with the plan proposed. . It appears to me to be an assertion, not supported by any proof, that assistance was sought, and consequently I cannot find that Mr. Richards refused such assistance. With regard to the committee, I think it would be straining the principle of responsibility of a committee for the acts of their secretary to hold them to have endorsed every statement made by him in a letter to a newspaper.

No. 7.

Q.—Did Mr. Richards suppress information that was important when he quoted part of the committee's letter of Nov. 21st, 1891, in his letter to the local papers dated Jan. 11th, 1892?

A.—*I am of opinion that Mr. Richards omitted nothing that was material to the point at issue in quoting from the letter of the 21st November. Indeed, the only inaccuracy which is pointed out by Mr. Daniell, viz. the substitution of "outsiders" for "outsides," is manifestly a printer's error, though Mr. Daniell ingeniously uses this error to make it appear that Mr. Richards desired to expose the outsiders while the committee were determined to protect them. I repeat what I had said in substance before, that to hold the committee responsible for every expression used by the secretary in a newspaper controversy, is to take up an untenable position.*

The above two charges, Nos. 6 and 7, Mr. Richards considers most important to be answered, as they amount to charges publicly made by the committee of discreditable conduct on his part, after Mr. Richards' most positive denial.

The committee, on their part, say that I must settle my dispute with Mr. Daniell, their secretary.

Mr. Richards' reply is, that if Mr. Daniell has acted without their knowledge or sanction, as the committee have lately implied that he did, he is their servant, and it is their business to correct or admonish him if he has been guilty of any act they disapprove of. Mr. Richards has nothing to do with him.

But the committee did not do this, but unanimously re-elected him as their secretary.

In consequence of this proceeding their then chairman resigned the chairmanship, and withdrew his name from the committee and severed his connection with the association, he so strongly disapproved of Mr. Daniell's conduct. His authority as chairman then ceased to exist.

I think Mr. Richards may fairly reply to this, that he dealt with Mr. Daniell as the honorary secretary to the committee, and that he had a right to look to them for redress, leaving them to deal with their secretary if he had exceeded his powers. While the committee have not accepted their responsibility for the acts of their secretary, they have not, so far as my knowledge extends, disavowed his action, though I

should not go so far as to say that by reappointing Mr. Daniell as their honorary secretary they gave their unqualified approval of his acts.

The committee also say that they appointed a sub-committee to assist in conducting the test, and that they agreed that only the names of the winners of prizes should be published with a few other of the best guesses.

Mr. Richards' reply is that this sub-committee had no power to alter the conditions of the block test as originally agreed upon.

The only persons who had the power to alter the original conditions were the subscribers themselves, who had paid their money for a particular purpose, and their consent to the change was never asked.

I have already answered this question as far as I can. The committee were, I conceive, bound to carry out the test under the original conditions, if they were cognisant of those conditions before they made different arrangements.—(Signed) WILLIAM C. LITTLE.

A LEGAL OPINION OBTAINED BY MR. RICHARDS.

“The letter of the 21st of November promises that the detail of the test should be publicly stated in the papers, and admits that the test was to show diversity of opinion. The statement in the newspaper only partially performs this promise, for it does not give the actual weights guessed by

Legal
answers to
the seven
questions.

all the competitors. It does not give the numbers of entries in Class 1, nor does it give the highest and lowest guesses, although it states that certain of the competitors were "out" by so many pounds, but it does not state whether they were above or below the actual weight.

"Committees and other public bodies are responsible for undertakings given or promises made by them and signed by their secretary as secretary: but speaking generally, committees would not be responsible for such undertakings or promises if given by the secretary without any authority to do so. In the present case I should think that it would be within the scope of a secretary's authority to make such an agreement as that contained in the letter in question, and that the letter therefore did bind the committee.

"A Lottery is defined in Webster's Dictionary as "a distribution of prizes by lot or chance," and by the Act 42 of George III. cap. 119 sec. 2, a person who shall keep any office or place to exercise any lottery is liable to indictment. In this case it was certainly originally intended that the competitors should exercise their skill, and it was not intended therefore to be a lottery, but if, as stated by Mr. Daniell in his letter, "all comers" were admitted and the whole thing was looked upon as a "diversion," then it was, in my opinion, a lottery and illegal.

"The committee *did not ask for information by*

their letter of the 21st of November. They stated that they were going to carry out the *test in a certain way, and asked approval.* They stated that the detail of the test would be made publicly known in the papers and would show the diversity of opinion. The course they adopted, however, in publishing the detail is not in accordance with their promise. It does not enable one to ascertain, as is shown on the tabular statements of other block tests, the numbers competing, and the highest and lowest estimates.

"We do not consider that Mr. Westley Richards in any way suppressed information, as he, in our opinion, quoted so much of the committee's letter as was material."

The same seven questions were put to Colonel Brocklehurst. On August 17th, 1892, Mr. Richards received the following answer to the seven questions.

"1. The subscribers gave me their money, without any reserve or stipulation, to institute a weighing competition.

"2. I gave the money and delegated the power to a sub-committee appointed by the Oakham Farm Stock Show Committee.

"3. The action of the sub-committee to be subject to my approval.

"4. I approved all the doings of the sub-committee.

“5. The sub-committee, I consider, had no power to deal with any one but me.”

This is a fair sample of the way all Mr. Richards' communications have been replied to.

Compare these answers to the seven questions with the answers of Sir John Lawes and Mr. Little, also the answer of the legal opinion to the same questions.

Colonel Brocklehurst's statement No. 1 is not correct. Mr. Richards gave his subscription to a block test competition as defined by the committee, and to no other kind of competition.

Statement No. 2 is delegating powers to a sub-committee which Colonel Brocklehurst did not possess (as before explained). The promises made by the sub-committee which Colonel Brocklehurst sanctioned were perfectly inconsistent with the original promises made by the committee to Mr. Richards, and which promise induced Mr. Richards to subscribe to the competition.

Statement No. 3 is answered above, it is clearly an afterthought, as the date shows. Colonel Brocklehurst's letter of the 3rd January, 1892, says, “I put the management of what I *unfortunately called a Block Test unreservedly* into the hands of committee, so cannot interfere.” There was an end of Colonel Brocklehurst's responsibility and at the same time of his power to interfere, all responsibility being made over unreservedly to the committee.

There Colonel Brocklehurst should have allowed the matter to remain, or what would have been better, to have told the committee to give the information as it had been promised and to withdraw the charges made against Mr. Richards.

Statement No. 4 has been answered. It merely says he approved of the sub-committee doing what they had no power to do.

Statement No. 5 is answered before.

It is quite clear Colonel Brocklehurst did call the competition a Block Test, and there was an end of the matter.

I will now give one other instance of the way in which letters were answered. As the committee refused to accept my proposition to refer the dispute to arbitration, I wrote to Colonel Brocklehurst to ask him *if he himself would abide by the decision of a disinterested and competent arbitrator, saying, "now answer me this question ;"* and here is the answer : "*I will have nothing to do with forcing an arbitration on the committee.*" This is simply a declaration that he will not do what he was not asked to do.

That is not my idea of business on a question of such vast importance to tenant farmers, and I will not allow, on public grounds, such an important food question to be turned into ridicule without protesting against such a mischievous policy ; as I subscribed to a block test, and that alone.

Mr. Richards' letter to Colonel Brocklehurst

dated the 26th October, containing Mr. Richards' views of the whole transaction, will be found in the Appendix, p. 125.

Rights of
sub-
scribers.

I claim a right in common with all subscribers, which is as follows :—

I claim the same right that custom accords to subscribers of every description.

If a subscriber find that his subscription to anything has not been applied to the purpose it was intended, but has been applied to some other purpose, and that purpose one calculated to injure the object he had in view when he subscribed, he has a legitimate right to complain of the use his subscription has been put to.

I consider my subscription was used to damage the value of block tests and turn them into ridicule.

If all guesses were not to be published, what was the use of the block test at all?

The object of all block tests is the same, it is to show diversity of opinion as to weight and value, and this object has been defeated by suppressing the weights, and I have a right to ask why they were suppressed.

Reasons
for wish-
ing to
assist
farmers.

I have always felt that I owed a debt to farmers (a debt of gratitude, not a money debt) for all the pleasure they have afforded me by allowing me to ride over their land for so many years (now more than sixty) in the different countries in which I have hunted. It was a debt that could not be

paid in money, and after full consideration and consulting many eminent agricultural authorities, first Sir James Caird, I came to the conclusion that providing the means by which farmers could get the proper market value for their cattle, and enable them to know what that value was, would be a practical way of assisting them, and put them more on a par with the butcher who, under the present system of guessing, practically fixes the price to be paid, and the farmer has no means of checking it, and as he (the butcher) is an interested party, this cannot be a satisfactory arrangement. I know, from some years of practical experience, that I am now able to fix the market price to the butcher, and invariably do it. All my fat cattle are sold by live weight at market; the butcher is always satisfied, and so am I, as I know what I am doing, and am able to check the price I receive by the *Times'* live-weight quotations. I cannot help regretting that what I have done does not at present entirely meet the approval of the great body of the farmers in my own district, but I hope I may be permitted to remind them that if they consider it has done them no good it cannot possibly have done them any harm.

I am aware that most farmers think and say the only remedies for the present condition of the farming business are protective duties and a reduction of rent. With regard to protective

duties, I will never attempt to accomplish what I do not see my way to succeed in. If any attempt were to be made by the owners of land to put protective duties on agricultural produce the voters in towns, and probably labourers also, would immediately say that the landlords wished to raise the price of food for the purpose of keeping up their rents or increasing them by the amount of the protective duty. I do not think, as the House of Commons is now constituted, they will consider the interests of any class of the community except the consumers. They will say that all productive industries must learn to take care of themselves. I regret that farmers should have made up their minds that protective duties are their only remedy. It is relying on an impossibility, and can only end in disappointment, as far as immediate relief is concerned. Any proposed change from free importations to protective duties must now come from the urban voters and from the agricultural labourer and not from the landowners and tenant farmers, and at present there is no sign of a desire for such a change, but quite the reverse, there is a strong feeling against it.

Working men in towns must not forget that shorter hours and increased wages will add to the cost of production and kill many of the orders upon which their employment depends.

With regard to rent, my own experience is, that landowners as a body have met their tenants in a

most liberal manner. I feel sure if farmers would keep full and proper accounts, and could show their landlords that they had conducted their business in a proper manner and had had sufficient capital employed, I am convinced there are few landlords that would not be prepared to make the necessary reductions; they do not wish to part with good tenants. This is what the Inland Revenue requires before it will remit the Schedule B. income tax. They do not take the farmer's *ipse dixit*, but require the loss to be shown, and have provided a simple form of account for that purpose. This is fair enough. I do not think there is anything unreasonable in the requirements of the Inland Revenue.

Producing accounts would of course be optional, but I think a landlord would naturally be more likely to listen to a tenant who produced an account showing his losses, than one who only made a bare statement that he had lost money, without any attempt to show that statement was correct. Farming, under its altered conditions, is a most difficult business to make money at.

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

ASHWELL, OAKHAM: October 1st, 1892.

IN THE MATTER of a dispute between

MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS

AND

THE OAKHAM MARKET FAT STOCK
SHOW COMMITTEE,

AND

A REFERENCE BY MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS TO
MR. WILLIAM C. LITTLE

FOR HIS OPINION ON THE CASE SUBMITTED TO HIM

G

REFERENCE OF MATTERS IN DISPUTE
TO MR. W. C. LITTLE.

I HAVE been asked to consider certain statements and correspondence which have been submitted to me by Mr. Westley Richards, who complains of the conduct of the Oakham Fat Stock Show Committee; and to express my opinion upon the several points as to which Mr. Westley Richards contends that he has cause for dissatisfaction.

It will be desirable that I should, before noticing the subjects of Mr. Richards' complaint, describe the circumstances under which I have undertaken the responsibility of offering an opinion upon a statement of facts submitted to me by one party to the dispute.

Mr. Westley Richards wrote to me in September last, asking if I would consent to act as arbitrator between himself and the Oakham Market Committee. I replied that I should be happy to act in such a capacity if appointed. In answer to a subsequent letter which I received from Mr. Richards, I suggested that a formal submission to arbitration under the Arbitration Act, 1889, should be prepared and duly executed by the two parties concerned in the dispute.

On the 17th of October Mr. Richards again wrote, informing me that he had been unable to obtain any reply to letters which he had addressed to the committee with the object of inducing them to concur in a submission of the matter to me as arbitrator, and that he had therefore resolved to put the whole matter before me in order that I might express my opinion thereon.

Under the circumstances thus described I consented to examine and consider such documentary evidence as might be laid before me, and it was arranged that every statement which was of the nature of evidence in the dispute should be laid before me in writing, and the papers containing such statements should be delivered to me in the presence of a third party, who should be fully informed as to the contents and the nature of the papers handed over to me.

In accordance with this arrangement I met Mr. Richards at Oakham on the 28th of October last, in the presence of Mr. John Fisher, of Dingley, the late Chairman of the Fat Stock Show Committee, when the papers which form the evidence in the case were handed over to me.

The conversation which took place at the meeting now mentioned was confined to my receiving answers to certain questions which I put for the purpose of obtaining such preliminary information as to the circumstances as would enable me to understand the papers put before me.

I have examined and carefully considered the whole of the correspondence and other papers laid before me. Before expressing any opinion I will, however, endeavour to present, in a narrative form, the history of the transactions out of which the dispute in question arose, and the successive stages by which it was developed.

Mr. Westley Richards has been for some years well known as an ardent and energetic promoter of the system of selling cattle by live weight. It is not necessary for me to state at length the arguments by which it has been sought to impress upon farmers a sense of the disadvantages of the system of sale of fat cattle generally adopted in this country. It will be sufficient to say that one of those arguments is that the average ordinary farmer has little opportunity of testing the accuracy of his judgment as to the weight of meat which a fat animal will yield; that in so far as he relies upon his judgment from mere inspection and handling of the animal he is dealing with an unknown quantity, and that if the live weight of the animal be ascertained, an additional factor in the problem is supplied, while the ascertained live weight gives a basis of fact upon which a record of prices may be kept.

In connection with the system of selling cattle by live weight, a number of experimental trials or tests of the accuracy of estimates of the dead weight of fat animals made by butchers, dealers,

and farmers have been carried out during recent years.* These trials or tests have been known and spoken of as "block tests," because the estimates of the several competitors are submitted to the test of the butcher's block, the animal whose meat weight has been estimated being killed and weighed under such conditions as would ensure accuracy and fair play.

Mr. Richards, in furtherance of his object, namely, that of selling cattle by live weight, has taken an active part in circulating intelligence respecting the results of these block test competitions, and pressing upon farmers the lessons which they are supposed to teach. This fact, coupled with the circumstance that Mr. Richards lives within a few miles of the town of Oakham, may fairly support the inference that the offer of prizes for a block test competition at the Annual Fat Stock Show at Oakham on the 14th December, 1891, was due to Mr. Richards' influence and persistent advocacy of the system of selling by live weight, and this inference is supported by a letter which Mr. Fletcher Daniell wrote to Mr. Richards on the 21st November, 1891.†

At the Fat Stock Show held on the 14th December, 1891, the day before mentioned, a block test competition was arranged and advertised. Prizes were offered in two separate classes: the first

* For particulars see Appendix E., Letter No. 2.

† See Appendix E., Letter No. 1.

being confined to "farmers or graziers residing or occupying land in the above hunt (the Cottesmore) or in the market radius :"* the second class being open to butchers and dealers residing within the same limits as in Class 1, or being supporters of the market. The prizes offered for competition in the first class amounted to 16*l.* 10*s.*, towards which sum 15*l.* were given by gentlemen of the Cottesmore Hunt. This sum appears to have been guaranteed and collected by Colonel Brocklehurst, of Ranksborough, who suggested the idea of this competition to the committee. The prizes in the second class were given by the Earl of Lonsdale.

On the day of the Show a fat ox was selected for the purpose of the trial; the several competitors were provided with cards containing printed directions and a form of declaration to be filled up and signed by the competitor, who was instructed to write his name and address with his estimate of weight on the card. The card was then to be enclosed in an envelope, upon which the estimate of weight was to be written. The envelope containing the card thus filled up was to be deposited in a sealed box, which was to be opened after the beast had been weighed, when, to quote the exact words of the directions, "the ten which show the nearest to the actual weight will be opened and the rest destroyed."†

* See copy of advertisement, Appendix A.

† See copy of card, Appendix B.

After the judging was completed, the fat ox which had been the subject of estimation was handed over to a butcher, by whom it was slaughtered on the following day; the whole of the arrangements as to the custody and the weighing of the animal being carried out under supervision. Upon the weight of the carcass having been ascertained, the several prizes were duly awarded to those whose estimates had proved to be the nearest to the actual weight.

Upon the publication of the results of this competition * Mr. Westley Richards complained in a letter to the Press that certain information which should have been given had been withheld, and that the object with which such tests were carried out had consequently been defeated.†

I have thus far, as I believe, stated nothing which is not admitted by all parties. I have now to examine and weigh certain statements which have been laid before me by Mr. Richards. If I should fall into any error with respect to the action of any person, or body of persons, who may be mentioned, it will be because I have not had the advantage of hearing from one party to the dispute, whatever may be urged against the statement of the case presented to me.

It will be necessary, in order to understand the nature of Mr. Richards' complaints against the committee, to go back to certain communications

* See Appendix D. † See Appendix E., Letter No. 2.

between him and Mr. Fletcher Daniell, the honorary secretary to the committee, before the date of the show.

It appears that a short time before the 21st November, 1891, Mr. Richards had endeavoured to see Mr. Daniell without succeeding, whereupon Mr. Daniell wrote a letter to Mr. Richards which has a most important bearing on the whole case.* It is signed by Mr. Daniell as honorary secretary, Oakham Market Show. It accepts for the committee "your and Major Brocklehurst's offer," and it proposes certain arrangements in the following terms:—

"We propose that the ox shall be in a coach-house at the *Crown Hotel*, under lock and key, up to 9 a.m. on the 14th December, and then all farmers and graziers who pay 2s. 6d. shall go in and estimate the weight, having a card and envelope given them; on the card they write their *name* and their estimate, close it up; on the outside the weight only they write. These are placed in a sealed-up box, which is not to be opened until the beast is killed and weighed. Then the ten envelopes that have the nearest weights on are to be opened and the prizes given to those entitled to them, and the others are to be destroyed *without opening*. This will prevent any individuality in the unsuccessful candidates. If this plan meets your approval I will take care

* See Appendix E., Letter No. 1.

that the detail of the test is publicly known in the papers. We can arrive at the variation of opinion from the outsides alone and obviate individual exposure, which you will admit is not the end we have in view—as I take it, the test is to show the diversity of opinion rather than expose individual ignorance. Mr. Robert Bradshaw has consented to be one of the scrutinisers to be present when the box is opened and the weight recorded, and to destroy those which are wide of the mark. Any day I can be at home to hear your wishes.”

On the 23rd November Mr. Richards wrote to Mr. Daniell as follows:—“The farmers are indebted to Colonel Brocklehurst for the suggestion and the prize. I have nothing to do with it beyond being an ordinary subscriber, but shall be glad to lend any assistance I can.”

It appears that before this correspondence took place Mr. Richards had furnished Mr. Daniell with a copy of a card used in a block-test competition arranged by Mr. M’Jannet and carried out at Stirling, but this does not seem to me to be material except as showing that Mr. Richards, as might be expected, took an interest in the competition and certainly gave some suggestions as to the arrangements.

Mr. Richards maintains that the plan thus definitely proposed by Mr. Daniell, as honorary secretary to the committee, was not carried out;

that the said plan was entirely satisfactory to him, and that it was in the full belief that the competition would be conducted in accordance with the terms stated in this letter of the 21st November, that he subscribed the sum of 5*l.* to the block test competition prize.

On the 18th of December the *Rutland Post*, a local newspaper circulating in the neighbourhood, contained a report of the result of the competition.* This report gives the estimates of the ten prize-winners in both classes, with the addition of some particulars as to the guesses of some of the unsuccessful competitors. With regard to Class 2 the total number of competitors was stated, and also the highest and lowest guesses, but with regard to Class 1 information on these two points was not given.

In the following week Mr. Richards addressed a letter to the *Rutland Post* pointing out the objects of block tests; detailing the several competitions which had taken place; stating that the Oakham case was the only one where the whole results of the guessing, with the number of competitors, had not been published; and asking that the error, which he felt sure must be accidental, might be rectified.† Mr. Richards had a further matter of complaint against the report, which was that Mr. John Fisher had been asked by the committee to estimate the carcass weight of the animal from

* See Appendix D.

† See Letter No. 2.

the recorded live weight, and that his estimate, which had been made in compliance with that request, had not been published.

It may be mentioned in passing that the newspaper report thus complained of does not appear as a communication from the committee, but it is obvious that the information contained in it was obtained through the honorary secretary, and it will be seen hereafter that Mr. Daniell accepts the responsibility for the information given to members of the Press.

On the 6th of January the *Rutland Post* contained a letter from Mr. Daniell in answer to that of Mr. Richards already noticed.* In this letter Mr. Daniell gives a copy of one received by him from Mr. Richards in answer to that of the 21st November previously noticed. He then states that he showed Mr. Richards "the plan which the committee had thought best to adopt, which he approved of." He further states that on the day when the ox was killed Mr. Richards called upon him "and wanted to know more than any of the committee knew themselves, and complained that the details were not as he wished, he wanted a uniform plan in all block tests. I told him he was too late then to alter details, and as the competitors had entered with the understanding that only the winners' envelopes were to be made public, I did not feel that I

* See Appendix E., Letter No. 3.

could break faith with them." With regard to the omission from the report of any mention of Mr. Fisher's estimate, Mr. Daniell says that that estimate was made publicly in presence of the reporters, and that as no prize was to be awarded in respect of this estimate his envelope did not come before the members of the Press who called for information.

Mr. Daniell concluded his letter by saying, "When I first wrote to Mr. Richards I wanted advice and information as to former block tests, but got none, and as it was a new feature in these parts we took a wide scope and let all comers in as 'diversion' rather than a test of skill or a match of live or dead weights."

Mr. Richards replied to this letter of Mr. Daniell's, which he styled misleading.* He denied the accuracy of the statement that Mr. Daniell "wanted advice and information but got none," and pointed out that the letter referred to, viz. that of the 21st of November,† "gave a clear outline of the method proposed to be adopted. . . . I thought the arrangement as good as could be, not a word was said about advice or information, as none was needed." A.

Mr. Richards then quotes from the letter the following paragraph:—

"If this plan meets your approval I will take care that the detail of the test is publicly known

* See Appendix E., No. 4.

† See Letter No. 1.

in the papers. We can arrive at the variation from the outsiders * alone and obviate individual exposure, which you will admit is not the end we have in view ; as I take it, the test is to show diversity of opinion rather than expose individual ignorance."

Mr. Richards continues thus :—"This was quite satisfactory, and is the course that has been pursued at all other block tests," and he expresses his opinion that the committee "should see that the figures I asked for are published, as without them block tests have no meaning, and a useful plan of calling farmers' attention to the variation there is in their opinions as well as in those of butchers is turned into ridicule."

Mr. Daniell wrote again to the Press on the 20th of January, repeating his assertion that he wanted advice and information as to former block tests. He says,† "I was not in power to alter arrangements 'as good as could be' for the coming test, but I was in power not to make publicly known any radically wrong detail, and for that reason wanted advice and information as to former block tests."

Mr. Daniell continues, "On November 23rd, Mr. Richards wrote that "he had nothing to do with it," but on December the 23rd he wrote to the papers and accused the committee (or me) of error in not having done what he wished,

* This was a printer's error for outsiders. † See Letter No. 5.

and what the committee had pledged themselves not to do, and we considered we had something to do with it. Mr. Richards will show plainly, to whom 'inaccurate' applies, if he will publish the whole of my letter to him, for there I give him the 'arrangement as good as could be,' and say, 'We can arrive at the variation of opinion from the outsides alone' (meaning the outsides of the envelopes). Now Mr. Richards has written it 'outsiders,' and these were the very ones the committee were determined to protect, and for that purpose a card was given to each competitor on which to write his name and his estimate of the weight, and also an envelope (into which he was to place the card), on the outside of which he was to write the weight alone, so that from the outsides alone we could get the necessary variation to award the prizes."

Mr. Daniell then adduces as proof that he had given all the information to Mr. Richards that he was empowered to do by the committee, a resolution which was passed on the 11th of January, 1892 (that is four weeks after the events of which Mr. Richards complained) to this effect: "That no further weights be published and that the unsuccessful estimates be destroyed;"—for if other figures are published it will be a breach of faith. The concluding sentence is not indicated as a quotation, and it is not clear whether it forms a part of the resolution or not.

It appears that from the date of this letter up to June the 27th, the matter was not publicly noticed, and there being no meeting of the committee during that interval no steps could be taken to induce them to review their previous course of action.

On the 27th June a meeting of the committee was held, and Mr. John Fisher, the chairman, proposed that the correspondence between Mr. Daniell and Mr. Richards should be read, but the majority of the meeting decided to proceed to the next business, treating the dispute as one between individuals and not one in which the committee were concerned; and in consequence of this action on the part of the committee Mr. Fisher withdrew from the committee.*

On the 8th of July Mr. Richards addressed a letter to the individual members of the committee enclosing a copy of Mr. Daniell's letter of the 21st November, and drawing their attention to their responsibility for the acts of their honorary secretary and complaining of the imputation conveyed by Mr. Daniell's letter of the 20th January with respect to information having been asked for and not supplied.†

A meeting of the committee was held on the 18th of July, and on the 19th of that month

* See extract from letters from Mr. Fisher to Mr. Richards 28th June and 30th June, Appendix E., No. 6.

† See Letter No. 7.

Mr. R. L. Bradshaw, the chairman, wrote to Mr. Richards to inform him that the committee had decided that no further detail "of weights with regard to the block test could be issued," and were sorry that the "misunderstanding had occurred."

On the 9th of August Mr. Richards again addressed the chairman of the committee, urging that the letter of the 21st November was written on behalf of the committee; that on the faith of the assurance contained in that letter he had given his subscription; that the conditions laid down in that letter as those under which the competition was to be carried out had not been complied with; and concluding by proposing to leave the question at issue between himself and the committee to the decision of an impartial person. "If I am held to be wrong," wrote Mr. Richards, "I will most willingly apologise to the committee for having caused them any trouble; but if given in my favour, I should ask that the charges of refusing to give information and of inaccuracy contained in Mr. Daniell's letter should be withdrawn, and that the highest and lowest weights, together with the number of competitors, should be given." * B.

Mr. Bradshaw replied that the letter should be laid before the committee. He adds † "from what I learn, Mr. Daniell's letter, containing the statement you complain of, was not written by the

* See Letter No. 8.

† See Letter No. 9.

authority of the committee, and the estimates have been destroyed according to the resolution passed on January 11th, 1892."

On the 26th August, Mr. Richards wrote to Mr. Bradshaw proposing arbitration, to which proposal Mr. Bradshaw replies on the 5th September. *

"If you had seen the committee in the first instance, or sent a statement that you wished for all the estimates to be published, the request would not have been entertained. I and several others did not know the meaning of block test."

Further letters from Mr. Richards to the committee, asking them to concur in the reference of the matters in dispute to arbitration, the expenses of which Mr. Richards offered to defray, elicited no reply.

In the preceding narrative I have endeavoured to leave out matter which appeared to me to be irrelevant, and to bring into the range of the dispute the names of as few gentlemen as possible.

Under the circumstances which it was necessary to narrate at some length, Mr. Westley Richards desires that I should answer categorically a series of questions. Before addressing myself to the consideration of these questions, I would observe that the root of all the misunderstanding which

* See Letter No. 10.

unfortunately arose lay in the different objects which Mr. Richards on the one side and Mr. Daniell on the other side had in view. As I have not had the opportunity of seeing the minute book of the committee's proceedings, I am unable to say how far the committee were cognisant of the proposals which Mr. Daniell laid before Mr. Richards, but it appears that they acquiesced in the arrangements for the conduct of the competition, which seems to have been such as was calculated to turn the whole proceedings into ridicule. Mr. Richards, on the one part, knew perfectly well what he desired to obtain as a result of the competition. A block test could have but one meaning to him. It was a serious matter of business, to be conducted under all necessary precautions, with the definite object of ascertaining what proportion of those who thought themselves competent to estimate the carcass weight of a living animal would be approximately near to the actual weight as tested by slaughter, and what would be the limits of variation among the estimators. Mr. Daniell, on the other hand, though he seems in his letter of the 21st November to appreciate fully the nature of the test and the means to be adopted for making that test effective without subjecting the individuals who made widely erroneous statements to derision, appears to have treated the matter as one of amusement or diversion open to all comers, thus converting what

C.

D.

was to have been a business affair into a mere guessing competition and utterly frustrating the object with which Mr. Richards had subscribed to the prize fund.

How far the committee had, previous to the day of the show, been made acquainted with the promises made by Mr. Daniell, acting as their honorary secretary, to Mr. Richards, I have no means of ascertaining. If these pledges had never been brought under their notice, and if on the other hand the members of the committee or the sub-committee who managed the competition were parties to a promise being given to the competitors that only the guesses of the prize-winners should be published, and if on the faith of these promises entries had been made, much of their subsequent conduct is explained; but if this were the case it might have been expected that they would have taken the earliest opportunity of stating the fact.

With regard to the several questions submitted to me by Mr. Richards, they are not such as can be answered by a simple and unqualified yes or no. I have endeavoured to reply to them to the best of my ability and judgment. (See replies, pp. 65-71.)

The whole question of the responsibility of the committee for their secretary appears to me to depend upon the extent of their knowledge of what he had promised to Mr. Richards when they allowed the competition to become a diversion,

and entries to be made on the assurance that only the guesses of the prize-winners would be published. That this was a condition of the competition is stated by Mr. Daniell in his letter of the 6th January, 1892:* "The competitors had entered with the understanding that only the winners' envelopes were to be made public." When or where this understanding was entered into is not apparent. It is not a condition implied by the directions on the back of the competitors' cards, since exactly the same directions appear on the cards issued to butchers and dealers, and the highest and lowest guesses in that class were published.†

There are one or two other points raised by Mr. Daniell in his two letters to the Press which may perhaps be conveniently noticed here lest it should be said that his side of the case has not received all the consideration which his letters supplied material for. Mr. Daniell seems to make some point of Mr. Richards' having said and written, "I have nothing to do with it beyond being an ordinary subscriber." But this may only have meant first that he did not wish to take the credit of the suggestion or of the collection of the money, and secondly, that he did not want to interfere in the general arrangements, having satisfied himself that the only essential conditions of a block test competition were complied with

* See Letter No. 3.

† See Appendix C.

by the plan proposed. Again, Mr. Daniell says that when Mr. Richards came on the 23rd of November "I showed him the plan the committee had thought best to adopt, which he approved of." I have no means of knowing what the plan here spoken of was. If it were in any respect inconsistent with the proposals of the 21st November it is strange that it has not been produced in defence of the action taken. If, however, it was merely a plan for dividing the money or selecting the ox, or examining the envelopes, or carrying out the details of the competition, Mr. Richards' expression that he was only a subscriber was natural enough, and quite consistent with his attitude throughout the whole of the proceedings.

In his second letter to the Press,* dated January 20th, 1892, Mr. Daniell says, "I wanted advice and information as to former block tests. I was not in power to alter the 'arrangements as good as could be' for the coming test, but I was in power not to make publicly known any radically wrong detail, and for that reason I wanted advice and information." I must confess that I am very doubtful whether I have arrived at the meaning of this phrase. "The arrangements as good as could be" were those of the letter of the 21st November, so described by Mr. Richards, whose ground of complaint is that Mr. Daniell did alter what he

* See Letter No. 5.

here declares he had no power to alter. He "was in power not to make publicly known any radically wrong detail," that is, he had power to suppress information which he had undertaken to give under conditions which he had just before declared he had no power to revoke.

Further on in the same letter Mr. Daniell says Mr. Richards "accused the committee (or me) of error" in not having done "what he wished"; whereas it is plain that Mr. Richards alleged that the error was in omitting to publish the whole result of the guessing as had been done in all other trials of the kind, and as he had on behalf of the committee promised should be done.

Again, Mr. Daniell, in the same letter, in describing the manner in which the competition was carried out, says from the "outsides alone" we could get the necessary variation *to award the prizes*; but Mr. Richards cared little about the prizes apart from the evidence they gave of skill in estimating, and he never asked for more information than could be got without opening a single envelope. The "diversity of opinion" which Mr. Daniell was desirous of showing could have been ascertained and published without any "exposure of individual ignorance," which he wished to avoid.

It is necessary for me to introduce the name of Colonel Brocklehurst as that of one to some extent

involved in this dispute. I do so with extreme reluctance. He was, however, the original proposer of the competition and a guarantor for the prize fund. I have had before me a considerable number of letters which were written by him to Mr. Richards upon this subject. I understand that he was aware that these letters would be produced. I shall only make use of them to say that he consistently maintained throughout that he had handed over the money to the committee unreservedly—that he acquiesced in the course they took. He admits that he was willing to combine two objects which he would now perhaps recognise as incompatible in such a competition as this was—that is, serious business and a diversion.

Colonel Brocklehurst seems to have been most anxious to preserve peace. He took upon himself more of the responsibility for any failure of the test which had caused disappointment to Mr. Richards than perhaps fairly attached to him. When he found that Mr. Richards considered himself aggrieved because the committee had not taken care to ensure the proper carrying out of a block test, he offered to return Mr. Richards his subscription. The offer was a natural one to make under the circumstances, but it was not one that was likely to be accepted.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Richards should have felt that by defending the action of the committee Colonel Brocklehurst had endorsed charges against

him of having refused information, of inaccuracy in quoting from letters, &c. If, as I think, the committee were not responsible for these newspaper utterances of their secretary, it follows that Colonel Brocklehurst, in upholding the action of the committee, would not be endorsing such charges, since they were not made by the committee. But I go further and say that there is not in the whole correspondence anything which implies and suggests an imputation upon Mr. Richards.

To sum up the whole of my conclusions on this painful matter I would repeat that there was a misunderstanding from the first outset. One of the parties desired a rigid test of the ability of men of business to judge correctly, or approximately, as to the carcass weight of a living animal without the aid of scales, and also with their assistance; the test being applied under conditions familiar to himself, and understood by him to be inseparably connected with the system of block tests.

On the other side, the committee, or at least some members of the committee, had no very precise or accurate knowledge of what was implied by the term "block test competition," and perhaps some of them had no objection to its being made ridiculous.

It can hardly be denied, even by those who have little faith in the system of selling by live weight,

that it was a great mistake to allow what was started and subscribed for as a "block test" to be converted into a sort of "sweepstakes." When, however, the mistake had been made, I venture to express my regret that the committee did not frankly own their error and declare that the guessing was conducted under such conditions as would not warrant the results being recorded. If, as appeared to be the case, the guesses of all comers were received, it would be useless to publish the highest and lowest guesses. But that Mr. Richards had every right to expect that these highest and lowest guesses would be published, I think it is impossible to doubt.

- E. I think it also a matter for regret that the committee did not at their meeting in June allow the correspondence between Mr. Richards and Mr. Daniell to be read. I cannot help feeling that throughout the whole dispute Mr. Richards has been treated by the committee with scant courtesy, to use the mildest expression which occurs to me. He has devoted some years of his life to the one object of getting cattle sold by live weight. In furthering this object he has spared neither time nor money. He can have had but one motive, that of benefiting the farmers. As my desire is to restore the good feeling which existed before this unfortunate dispute arose, I will not say more upon this point. But I will add that I do not

believe there was any deliberate intention on the part of any person to impute to Mr. Richards dishonourable or discreditable acts or motives, notwithstanding the hasty expressions used, perhaps in a moment of excitement, by a correspondent of a newspaper. If this be the case, I should be glad to find that some public disclaimer of such imputations had been made. If this disclaimer were now put forth I should hope that Mr. Richards would write off his subscription to the Oakham Fat Stock Show "guessing competition" as a bad investment and erase the particulars from his record of block tests, and that he would continue his efforts to advance the interests of farmers notwithstanding the events of the past. Mr. Richards knows well that pioneers of improvement must expect to be misunderstood and misrepresented, and that they may look in vain for gratitude from those whom they most desire to serve. F.

I have appended to this memorandum copies of certain letters and papers which seemed to be necessary for the proper understanding of the case submitted to me.

In conclusion, I would express the hope that I have not done an injustice to any person involved in this case. I cannot hope to have fully appreciated every incident and detail, still less can I hope that the result of my labours will be accept-

able to all. I can, however, say that I have endeavoured to look at the whole subject without prejudice, and that I should be glad if my mediation could lead to any restoration of good feeling.

(Signed) WILLIAM C. LITTLE.

STAGS' HOLT, MARCH:

15th November, 1892.

APPENDIX A.

 COPY of Advertisement of "Block Test" Competition.

OAKHAM CATTLE MARKET CHRISTMAS SHOW OF FAT STOCK

Will be held on December 14th, 1891.

BLOCK TEST (Class 1). 16*l.* 10*s.*

(15*l.* of which is given by Gentlemen of the Cottesmore Hunt) will be offered in eight prizes ranging from 5*l.* to 5*s.*, to the Farmer or Grazier residing or occupying land in the above Hunt, or in the Market radius, who estimates nearest to the dead weight of a Shorthorn Ox. Entrance 2*s.* 6*d.*—Entries close at 10 a.m. on December 14th. Judging in this Class from 9 until 11 a.m.

BLOCK TEST (Class 2).

The Right Hon. the Earl of Lonsdale also offers 10*l.* in three prizes of 5*l.*, 3*l.*, and 2*l.*, to Butchers and Dealers, residing in the Cottesmore Hunt, or Oakham Market radius, or being supporters of the above Market, who estimate nearest to the dead weight of a Shorthorn Ox. Entrance 2*s.* 6*d.* Entries close at 10 a.m. on December 14th. Judging in this Class commences at 11.30 a.m.

For further particulars, apply to

F. R. DANIELL, or { Hon. Secs.
J. BROMHEAD, { Oakham.

APPENDIX B.

COPY of Card issued to Competitors in Class 1, Block Test Competition.

BLOCK TEST.

OAKHAM MARKET FAT STOCK SHOW.

15*l.* given by some Gentlemen of the Cottesmore Hunt.

I _____, residing within the Market radius [or the] * limit of the Cottesmore Hunt, declare that I am a Farmer, Grazier, or Son of a Farmer, and Feeder of Fat Stock, and I am not a Butcher or Dealer; that I have carefully examined this Bullock, and I estimate that his dead carcass should weigh _____ stone _____ lb. (Imperial weight), 14 lb. to the stone.

All the figures must be perfectly plain. Any card with altered figures will be reckoned a spoiled paper and will be put aside.

Prizes.

(Particulars as to 8 Prizes follow.)

Entrance 2s. 6d.

[On the reverse side.]

DIRECTIONS.

Write your Name and Address on this Card and your estimate of the Weight and close the envelope. On the outside of the envelope write in Plain Figures the WEIGHT ONLY, and place it in the Box provided. The Sealed Box will be opened (after the Beast has been weighed) before a Committee, and the ten which show the nearest to the actual weight will be opened and the rest destroyed.

Prizes will be sent in due course and the names of the winners will be published in the Local Papers.

* The words in brackets are obliterated by the card having been placed on a file.

APPENDIX C.

COPY of Reverse Side of Card issued to Competitors in Block Test Competition, Class II., for Butchers and Dealers.

HOURS FOR JUDGING, 11.30 UNTIL 2.

Please attend early.

Write your Name and Address on the Card, and your estimate of the Weight, and close the envelope. On the outside of the envelope write in Plain Figures the WEIGHT ONLY, and place it in the box provided. The Sealed Box will be opened (after the Beast is weighed) before a Committee, and the ten which show the nearest to the actual Weight will be opened, and the rest destroyed.

Prizes will be sent in due course, and the Names of the Winners will be published in the Local Papers.

APPENDIX D.

COPY of a Report of the Proceedings at the Block Test Competition, Oakham Fat Stock Show, Dec. 14th, 1891.

OAKHAM CHRISTMAS FAT STOCK SHOW.

THE BLOCK TEST.

*Reprinted from the 'Rutland, Oundle, and Stamford Post,'
Dec. 18th, 1891.*

THE new feature of "the block test," introduced this year in connection with the Oakham Christmas Fat Stock Show, created considerable interest, as was evidenced by the large number of entries. The shorthorn ox—for the best estimates as to the

weight of whose cold carcass the prizes were awarded—was a very rough animal fed by Mr. Rowland Turner, Uppingham, and one withal very difficult to judge the dead weight of. The animal was exhibited in a booth in the *Crown Hotel Yard*. The beast was, after the judging, handed over to Mr. Munday, butcher, Langham, the purchaser, by whom it was slaughtered on Tuesday, and on being weighed the following day, touched the scale at 73 st. 12 lb. Besides the prize-winners, whose names appear below, in Class 1 (for farmers and graziers), two gentlemen were 1 st. 12 lb. out; two were 2 st. 6 lb. out; two were 2 st. 8 lb. out, and 14, in addition, were within 3 st. 12 lb. of the correct weight. In Class 2 (for butchers and dealers) besides the successful competitors mentioned below, one was 14 lb. out, one was 16 lb. out, one was 18 lb. out, one was 21 lb. out, and, in addition, 14 were within 3 st. 9 lb. of the bullock's weight, so that it will be seen Class 2 showed the most judgment. *In Class 2 one competitor estimated the weight of the animal at 86 st., and another at 68 st. 10 lb.* There were 31 competitors in this class. Following is the full list of awards:—

CLASS I.

To the Farmer or Grazier residing or occupying land in the Cottesmore Hunt, or in the Market radius, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ offered by the Gentlemen of the Hunt.

Name.	Estimate. st. lb.
1—5 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., Mr. John Bromhead, Burley	74 5
2—3 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., Mr. S. Hardy, Braunstone	74 7
3—3 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., Mr. S. Northen, Thorpe-by-Water	74 7
4—3 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., Mr. J. Fisher, Dingley	74 7
5—17s. 6d., Mr. A. Hinman, Teigh	73 0
6—17s. 6d., Mr. E. Dexter, Barrowden	73 0
7—10s., Mr. John Green, Manton	75 0
8—5s., Mr. W. Lattimore, Oakham	72 7
9—5s., Mr. R. Faulks, Oakham	72 7
10—5s., Mr. E. King, North Luffenham	72 7

CLASS II.

To the Butcher and Dealer residing in a like district, or being a supporter of the Oakham Market, 10*l.* offered by the Earl of Lonsdale.

Name.	Estimate. st. lb.
1—5 <i>l.</i> , Mr. W. H. Barnett, Oakham	73 10
2—3 <i>l.</i> , Mr. A. Brown, Oakham	73 8
3—1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> , Mr. Joseph Crowdell, Leicester	73 7
4—1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> , Mr. E. Turner, Melton	73 7
5—15 <i>s.</i> , Mr. R. Steel, Oakham	74 7
6—10 <i>s.</i> , Mr. Matt Hubbard	73 2
7—5 <i>s.</i> , Mr. W. Peach, Oakham	74 9
8—Game, Mr. A. Warren, Essex	73 0
9—Game, Mr. Thos. Jackson, Ashwell	73 0
10—Game, Mr. A. Pridmore, Wing	74 10

APPENDIX E.

LETTER No. 1.

Mr. FLETCHER DANIELL, Hon. Sec., Oakham Market Show,
to Mr. WESTLEY RICHARDS.

OAKHAM: *November 21st, 1891.*

DEAR SIR,

I heard from Mr. J. Furley that you wanted to see me the other day and mistook him for me. I presume it was about the Block Test? As the matter now stands, the Committee accept with thanks your and Major Brocklehurst's offer. We propose that the Ox shall be in a Coach-house at the *Crown Hotel*, under lock and key, up to 9 a.m. on the 14th Dec., and then all Farmers and Graziers who pay 2*s.* 6*d.* shall go in and estimate the weight, having a card and envelope given them; on the card they write their *name* and their estimate, close it up. On the outside the weight only they write. These are placed in a sealed-up box, which is not to be opened until the beast is

killed and weighed. Then the 10 envelopes that have the nearest weights on are to be opened, and the prizes given to those entitled to them, and the others are to be destroyed *without opening*. This will prevent any *individuality in the unsuccessful candidates*. I have written thus to Major Brocklehurst, but not heard from him. *If this plan meets your approval, I will take care that the detail of the Test is publicly known in the papers. We can arrive at the variation of opinion from the outside alone, and obviate 'individual' exposure, which you will admit is not the end we have in view—as I take it the Test is to show the diversity of opinion, rather than expose 'individual ignorance.'* Mr. Robert Bradshaw has consented to be one of the scrutinisers to be present when the box is opened and the weight recorded, and to destroy those which are wide of the mark.

Any day I can be at home to hear your wishes on the matter if I have a line by post the night previously. It would be well to have all settled prior to Wednesday eve, that publicity can be given in all the papers.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) FLETCHER R. DANIELL,
HON. Sec.

OAKHAM MARKET SHOW.

LETTER No. 2.

MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS to the EDITOR of the '*Rutland, Oundle, and Stamford Post*.'

BLOCK TESTS.

ASHWELL, OAKHAM:

December 23rd, 1891.

SIR,—The object of all Block Tests (which were originated by Sir John Lawes in 1879) is the same: it is to show Farmers and others interested in the Cattle Trade *the diversity of opinion that exists as to weights and values*, under the present methods of marketing cattle, and the impossibility of basing calculations upon *opinions* which vary so greatly, instead of upon a figure which represents a fact, and from which calculations are easily

made by any Farmer who understands his business. There have been 12 of these Tests as under, detailed particulars of which shall be published.

July 1879—Sir John Lawes, who was the originator of them in England.

February 7th, 1889—Mr. McJannet's 1st experiment.

March 2nd, 1889—Mr. McJannet's 2nd experiment.

May 1889—Royal Agricultural Society's Woburn experiments.

December 14th, 1889—Mr. McJannet's 3rd experiment.

August 1891—Highland Societies experiment at Stirling.

November 28th, 1891—At Wynyard, Lord Londonderry's Home Farm.

November 28th, 1891—At Wynyard, 2nd test, same day.

December 9th, 1891—Royal Dublin Society Test.

December 14th, 1891—Oakham Farmers' Test.

December 14th, 1891—Oakham Butchers' and Dealers' Test.

December 1891—Whitchurch, Salop, Test.

12 Tests.

Out of these 12 tests, the Oakham Farmers' Test is the only one that has omitted to publish the whole result of the guessing, or the number of those who guessed, which is the sole object in view of all Tests, and which has thus been defeated by the unusual course pursued in this instance. The information has been properly recorded in Class 2, "Test for Butchers and Dealers," and the numbers guessing, and the highest and lowest guesses given in a proper manner. Oakham, I believe, is the only place where money prizes have been given, and we are much indebted to Col. Brocklehurst who originated the proposal, and Lord Lonsdale, for their liberality, and the trouble they have so kindly taken in the matter.

The Committee who conducted the experiment was an excellent one, and consisted of thorough practical farmers. I feel sure it could not be their wish or intention that an omission of the greatest importance in the Farmers' Class should have been made, and I hope the error will be rectified now that their attention has been called to it, as I think it must have been accidental. I feel sure it would be their wish that both farmers and butchers should be treated alike. It was also the unanimous wish of the Market Committee that Mr. Fisher should be asked to judge the dead weight from the live weight (not for competition). 122 stone was given him as the live weight, he estimated the carcass weight at 60 per cent. of the

live weight or 73 st. 3 lb., which was within 2 lb. of the winner of 1st prize. Why was this information suppressed? It is not likely that it was by the order of the Committee, after the expression of their unanimous wish that Mr. Fisher should estimate from the live weight. If such important omissions as these are to go unchallenged, it will form a most mischievous precedent, which if followed would destroy the whole value of Block Tests, and render them worthless. I hope, therefore, the error of those who are responsible for sending the accounts to the newspapers will be rectified at once.

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

Explanation of difference—

Actual dead weight of carcass	st. lb. 73 12 (14 lb. stones).
Mr. Bromhead's estimate (winner of 1st prize)	} 74 5
Actual weight	
	73 12
Wrong	7 lb. over actual weight.
Actual dead weight of carcass	st. lb. 73 12
Mr. Fisher's estimate from live weight	73 3
Wrong	9 lb. under actual weight.

Difference of only 2 lb. from the prize-winner.

LETTER No. 3.

MR. F. DANIELL (HON. SEC.) *to the EDITOR of the 'Rutland, Oundle, and Stamford Post.'*

BLOCK TESTS.

January 6th, 1892.

SIR,—I must say in justification of the Oakham Block Test Committee that no one has less cause to complain than Mr. Westley Richards of their conduct. On November 23rd,

I received the following letter from Mr. Richards, in answer to one I wrote asking his wishes, &c., as to details.

ASHWELL LODGE, OAKHAM :

November 23rd, 1891.

DEAR SIR,—I will call on you this afternoon a little after 4 p.m., and show you a letter I have received from Mr. Fisher. The farmers are indebted to Col. Brocklehurst for the suggestion and the prize. I have nothing to do with it, beyond being an ordinary subscriber, but shall be glad to lend any assistance I can.

Yours faithfully,

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

MR. DANIELL.

When he came, I showed him the plan the Committee had thought best to adopt, which he approved of, and again he said he was only a subscriber. On December 7th, at a Committee meeting, the following resolution was carried :—Proposed by Mr. Royce, and carried, "That W. Richards, Esq., and Mr. Fisher be asked to give the dead carcass weight of the Test bullock after it has been weighed alive." I wrote to Mr. Richards, and received this letter :

CARLTON CLUB, PAUL MALL, S.W. :

December 11th, 1891.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry I shall not be at home for your Block Test on Monday, as I have an engagement in London I cannot put off. I was not aware of the rule that the competition was only for those who sold in the market. I will only sell my cattle by live weight, and there is no one in Oakham who will buy them in that way. I only kept my beasts in order to help the show, and I think they would have done it, as they were four very good ones. You will have Mr. Fisher to estimate from the live weight; he will do it as well as anybody, but he ought to be told how the beast has been fed, as everything depends upon that. The beast ought also to be fasted before it is weighed, as these calculations are always based on the fasted live weight.

Yours faithfully,

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

MR. DANIELL.

The beast was killed on Tuesday afternoon, December 15th, and weighed at 9.30 the next day. While the Committee were in the slaughter house, Mr. Richards' groom came with a letter, enquiring who saw it weighed, how weighed, and its weight, all of which questions I duly answered. The same day Mr. Richards called on me and wanted to know more than

any of the Committee knew themselves, and complained that the details were not as he wished—"he wanted a uniform plan in all Block Tests." I told him he was too late then to alter "details," and as the competitors had entered with the understanding that only the winners' envelopes were to be made public, I did not feel that I could break faith with them, and told him that if he wanted a "uniform" he should give the shape to the tailor before the coats were cut. It was too late then to alter the pattern. With regard to the "suppression" of Mr. Fisher's estimate by live weight, I must inform Mr. Richards that no such thing happened. Mr. Fisher publicly, at the dinner, announced his estimate as 73 st. 3 lb., and the Press had this opportunity of recording it. There was no prize for Mr. Fisher's estimate, and as no prize was to be awarded, his envelope was not classed with the prize-winner, and, therefore, did not come before the members of the Press, who called for information, and who, I believe, will bear me out that no trouble was spared by me in affording every information I was in possession of. *When I first wrote to Mr. Richards, I wanted advice and information as to former Block Tests, but got none, and as it was a new feature in these parts we took a wide scope, and let all comers in as "diversion," rather than a test of skill or a match of live or dead weights.*

Yours faithfully,

FLETCHER R. DANIELL,
Hon. Sec.

LETTER No. 4.

MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS to the EDITOR of the '*Rutland, Oundle, and Stamford Post.*'

OAKHAM BLOCK TEST.

ASHWELL, OAKHAM :
January 11th, 1892.

SIR,—There is only one paragraph at the end of Mr. Daniell's long and misleading letter in this week's issue of your paper which requires notice, it is this:—" *When I first wrote to Mr. Richards, I wanted advice and information as to*

former Block Tests, but got none." This statement is most inaccurate. Mr. Daniell's letter referred to, gave a clear outline of the method proposed to be adopted for the examination of the beast. I thought the arrangement as good as could be, not a word was said about advice or information, as none was needed. The letter went on to say, "If this plan meets your approval I will take care that the detail of the Test is publicly known in the papers. We can arrive at the variation of opinion from the outsiders alone, and obviate individual exposure, which you will admit is not the end we have in view, as I take it the Test is to show *diversity of opinion* rather than expose individual ignorance." This was quite satisfactory, and is the course that has been pursued at all other Block Tests, and if it had been carried out at Oakham, as promised, not a word could have been said. As it was not so carried out, I was justified in the letter I wrote, and I think the Committee should see that the figures I asked for are published, as without them Block Tests have no meaning, and a useful plan of calling farmers' attention to the variation there is in their opinions as well as in those of butchers, is turned into ridicule. I shall not answer any more letters on the subject, and think the Committee should call a meeting and determine what they will do. I shall be happy to give them any explanation they may require, as the question is a most important one, not only to producers but to consumers.

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

LETTER No. 5.

MR. F. DANIELL (HON. SEC.) *to the* EDITOR *of the*
'Rutland, Oundle, and Stamford Post.'

OAKHAM BLOCK TEST.

[January 20th, 1892.

SIR,—Mr. Westley Richards speaks of my letter as "long," "misleading," and "inaccurate." Now as to "long," I have not the Journal at hand to refer to, but in a contemporary of January 1st I find that Mr. Richards' letter occupies eighty-

seven lines, and mine of the 8th exactly the same, but this includes thirty small print lines occupied by Mr. Richards' two letters to me, so that I can hardly be credited with more than fifty-seven to his eighty-seven. So much for long letters.

Now as to "misleading," I quote, *and again assert that I wanted advice and information as to former Block Tests.* I was not in power to alter the "arrangements as good as could be" for the coming test, but I was in power not to make publicly known any radically wrong detail, and for that reason I wanted advice and "information as to former Block Tests." So much for misleading.

Now as to "inaccurate," I sent to the papers Mr. Richards' letters (not copies or quotations only), and they were accurately printed. Now, on November 23rd, Mr. Richards wrote that he had "nothing to do with it," but on December 23rd he wrote to the papers and accused the committee (or me) of "error" in not having done what he wished, and what the committee had pledged themselves not to do, and we considered we had something to do with it. *Mr. Richards will show plainly to whom inaccurate applies if he will publish the whole of my letter to him,* for there I give the "arrangement as good as could be," and say "we can arrive at the variation of opinion *from the outsides alone*" (meaning the outsides of the envelopes). Now Mr. Richards has written it "*outsiders,*" and *these were the very ones the committee were determined to protect,* and for that purpose a card was given to each competitor on which to write his name and his estimate of the weight, and also an envelope (into which he was to place the card), on the outside of which he was to write the weight alone, so that from the "*outsides alone*" we could get the necessary variation to award the prizes. In proof that I gave Mr. Richards all the information I could, and all that I was empowered to do by the committee, I enclose a copy of the resolution passed by a majority (eleven to two) on January 11th, 1892; proposed by Mr. Langley Hardy and seconded by Mr. Robert Healey—"That no further weights be published, and that the unsuccessful estimates be destroyed," for if other figures are published, it will be a breach of faith.

Yours faithfully,

FLETCHER R. DANIELL,
Hon. Sec.

LETTER No. 6.

EXTRACT from a Letter addressed by Mr. JOHN FISHER
to Mr. WESTLEY RICHARDS.

June 28th, 1892.

I am sorry to inform you that the committee would not allow me to read the letters, they being of opinion that the difference was between you and Mr. Daniell, and that it was better for you to settle it between yourselves.

LETTER No. 6A.

EXTRACT from a Letter (the same to the same).

June 30th, 1892.

What happened was this: As soon as accounts were passed I got up and announced to the meeting that I had received letters from you to read to the meeting (one letter from Mr. Daniell to you and one from you). Some one at once proposed that we proceed with the other business, as any dispute between you and Mr. Daniell had better be settled between yourselves. This was carried by acclamation, therefore the matter was not entered into at all.

LETTER No. 7.

MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS to MEMBERS OF THE OAKHAM FAT
STOCK SHOW COMMITTEE.

ASHWELL, OAKHAM, RUTLAND :
July 8th, 1892.

SIR,—I regret that the Committee of the Fat Stock Show refused (at their meeting held on June 27th) to hear Mr. Daniell's letter read containing promises made by him on behalf of the committee as to the publication of the weights of the "Block Test" experiments; I need not remind the committee that they alone are responsible for the acts of their servant, and that the promises contained in that letter were their promises.

This decision leaves me no other means of bringing to the notice of the committee the promises in question except to enclose a copy of the letter sent by their employé on their behalf; this I take the liberty of doing in case they should not have been submitted to them before being made. I have no personal quarrel whatever with Mr. Daniell, as I hold the committee responsible for not publishing the promised information.

Mr. Daniell's statement that he asked or even wanted information is quite inaccurate, as his letter to me will show, and I cannot allow myself to remain under the imputation made in Mr. Daniell's letter to the local papers of 20th January, 1892, without being certain that the committee are acquainted with the true facts.

I have always been against names being published, and have only suggested that the weights as estimated should be made known in order to show the diversity of opinion that exists on the subject. This is the *sole object of all Block Tests*. I hope the committee will take my explanation in good part, as my only desire has been to help farmers and to show by practical tests what a difficult operation it is to ascertain the weight of cattle by guessing, compared with trusting to the scales to determine the quantity to be bought and sold.

Your obedient servant,

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

LETTER No. 8.

MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS to THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OAKHAM
FAT STOCK SHOW.

CARLTON CLUB, PALL MALL, S.W.:

August 9th, 1892.

DEAR SIR,—I have duly received your letter of the 19th of July, announcing the determination of the Oakham Fat Stock Show Committee to give no further information respecting the block test.

I am exceedingly sorry to be at variance with the committee, but having regard to the great importance of the question which these "block tests" have been established to prove, viz. the very great diversity of opinion that exists as to the weight

and value of the carcass contained in a fat animal, I venture to again appeal to you.

Mr. Fletcher R. Daniell's letter to me of the 21st of November, 1891, which I venture to think I am entitled to consider as written on behalf of the committee, and on the faith of which I gave my subscription, informed me of the mode in which it was proposed to carry out the test, and with which I was perfectly satisfied. Mr. Daniell promised that the detail of the test should be publicly known in the papers, and he admitted that the object of the test was to show *diversity of opinion* rather than expose individual ignorance, in which I entirely agree.

With regard to Class 2 for butchers and dealers, the number of competitors and the highest and lowest weights are given. It might have added to the interest if the weights of every competitor, not, of course, disclosing his name, had been published, but this is not important.

With regard to Class 1 for farmers and graziers, the promise contained in Mr. Daniell's letter was not performed. The highest and lowest weights are not given, neither is the number of competitors given. We are told so many competitors were so many stones and lbs. "out," but we are not told whether they guessed above or below the weight. We are not told whether there were any competitors other than the twenty whose weights were "out," and there is nothing to show the actual weights guessed by the unsuccessful competitors. This is what I complain of. It seems to me that Mr. Daniell gives the reason, as he states in his letter of the 6th of January, 1892, the committee "took a wide scope and let all comers in, as 'diversion' rather than a test of skill"; he treated the whole thing as a joke, and if after announcing the test as one for farmers and graziers "all comers" were allowed to compete, and the test was looked upon really as a "diversion," then it was a *lottery*, and not a test of skill, and the whole thing became, as I am advised, illegal by law. The subscription I gave was on the understanding (given in the letter of the 21st November, 1891) that it should be used in a competition of skill, and to prove facts which I consider of the highest importance to farmers. It was used, as admitted by your secretary, to allow all comers,

by putting in a trifling sum, a possibility of winning, not by the exercise of skill or knowledge, but by mere chance, a substantial prize.

I consider I have a right to ask the committee why the subscriptions with which they were entrusted have been so applied. I am quite willing to leave the question between the committee and myself to any impartial person, and if I am held to be wrong, I will most willingly apologise to the committee for having caused them any trouble; but if given in my favour, I should ask that the charges of refusing to give information and of inaccuracy contained in Mr. Daniell's letter should be withdrawn, and that the highest and lowest weights, together with the number of competitors, should be given.

Yours faithfully,

WESTLEY RICHARDS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
OAKHAM FAT STOCK SHOW.

LETTER No. 9.

MR. R. L. BRADSHAW to MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS.

EGLETON, OAKHAM :
August 24th, 1892.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, I will have it produced at the next meeting of the Oakham Market Show Committee, and from what I learn Mr. Daniell's letter, containing the statement you complain of, was not written by the authority of the committee, and the estimates have been destroyed according to the resolution passed on January 11th, 1892.

I am yours very truly,

R. L. BRADSHAW.

LETTER No. 10.

MR. R. L. BRADSHAW to MR. WESTLEY RICHARDS.

EGLETON, OAKHAM,
September 5th, 1892.

DEAR SIR,—I replied to your letter of the 9th August, and there has not been a meeting of the committee since, or I

should have produced your letter as promised, and if Colonel Brocklehurst has all the estimates it is not known by the committee, and when there is a meeting you had better attend and have the matter settled, which would be much better than writing. If you had seen the committee in the first instance or sent a statement that you wished for all the estimates to be published, the request would not have been entertained. I and several others did not know the meaning of *Block Test*.

I was only the chairman at the meeting on the 18th July and not the appointed chairman, so if you have more correspondence please write to the secretary.

I am yours truly,

R. L. BRADSHAW.

MR. RICHARDS' Letter to COLONEL BROCKLEHURST containing
MR. RICHARDS' views of the whole transaction.

ASHWELL : October 26th, 1892.

The Oakham Fat Stock Show Committee had a meeting on Monday the 10th instant, and read my letters proposing to refer the dispute between the committee and myself to arbitration. I send you a copy of the last letter I wrote, where I offer to pay the expenses of arbitration, as I was anxious to get the matter peaceably settled. They have never acknowledged the receipt of my letters, which I consider very insulting.

I have now arranged to lay all the correspondence before Mr. W. C. Little, of Stags' Holt, a man perfectly well known as an arbitrator. I have also sent the correspondence to Sir John Lawes and asked him to do the same thing. These are two of the most competent and trustworthy men in the kingdom and their decisions are sure to carry weight. I have made the best case out for the committee that I can and I shall hand in all your letters, which contain everything that can be said in favour of the committee. I shall publish my correspondence with the committee with that that has appeared in the papers, and let those who are interested in the matter judge for themselves; it is only a local dispute and of no public interest. If

the arbitrator thinks it necessary, should you have any objection to his publishing any of your letters that throw light on the subject, in an appendix, they will all be in defence of the conduct of the committee. I am aware I have a legal right under the circumstances to do it, but I prefer to ask your permission to do it.

I shall publish everything connected with this dispute as shortly as possible, but after having done that I shall publish the statistics of the block tests that have taken place this year, both of farmers and of butchers and dealers, which I consider a most valuable statistical record and one that has never been collected before, as they show in a most striking manner what an unsatisfactory state the cattle trade of the country is in. I shall also publish the objects I had in view when I first took the question in hand, and what has been accomplished. I wrote you a letter telling you the reason I took the question up, which I shall fully explain in the pamphlet I am writing. I will give you copies of any letters that you require. I only want to see the matter fairly discussed, which I have never been able to get done. I do not want to quarrel with you, I have far too great a personal regard for you, but this is a public question of very great importance, both to landlords and tenants, and I have a perfect right to state my views on the subject, as much as I have on any political question. However much we may differ we need not quarrel because we take different views over a public question.

I will now state what my view of the case is. In your letter of the 3rd January, 1892, you say, "I put the management of what I unfortunately called a block test *unreservedly* into the hands of the committee, so cannot interfere." Up to that date no blame of any kind could possibly be attached to you. The matter was entirely in the hands of the committee, and my complaints against the committee are these :—

No. 1.

That they broke their written agreement entered into with me, contained in their letter dated November 21st, 1891, where they promise to give certain information for which I paid a certain sum of money.

No. 2.

The committee refused to hear a letter read that I had written to their chairman enclosing a copy of their agreement. I considered this very insulting and so did their chairman, as he has resigned. It was *very wrong* to refuse to hear the letter read.

No. 3.

The committee accuse me, or at least insinuate that I refused to give them information as to the meaning of a Block Test, when no such information had been asked for in their letter, I having previously given them all the necessary information which was contained in the Stirling Block Test Card.

No. 4.

The committee accuse me of garbling a letter written by them to me, or omitting passages in the committee's letter, after I had denied the charge in the most positive manner.

No. 5.

I wrote three letters to the committee proposing to settle the dispute between us by arbitration, and offering to pay all expenses. These letters were read and discussed at the last meeting of the committee. They have never been answered or acknowledged. This I consider, like the other case of the same kind previously mentioned (No. 2), a deliberate insult.

If your letter to Mr. Daniell, dated April 13th, 1892, had been written previous to the competition that took place in December, it would only have been a foolish letter, but when it was written, four months after, when you were quite aware what the committee had done, and the charges they had brought against me, I consider it was a *very wrong* letter to write, as it sanctioned the charges brought against my personal character. I will never allow my antecedents to be mixed up in any way with any questionable transactions, either of a private or public character. I knew what I was doing when I undertook this question. No one can undertake to show the sharp practices or questionable proceedings, in many cases amounting to fraud, in one class of the community, and the

want of knowledge, by which they are great losers, in another class, without making many enemies, although it is done for the public good. Those who object to the proposed remedy, have a right to criticise the principles advocated in order to accomplish the end in view; that is legitimate, but they have no right to attack the character of the proposer, and this is what has been done. It has nothing to do with the question. Sweeping changes, such as are proposed, cannot be made without some friction, but the proposals should take their stand upon their own merits, irrespective of the proposer, though he may speak from practical knowledge and experience.

Your letter to Mr. Daniell, of the 13th April, 1892, was the beginning of all the mischief. When you tell a set of farmers that everything they have done is right, and everything that I have done is wrong, of course they will believe you. By this act of yours I cannot help seeing, and feeling, that all this cabal and bad feeling that has been raised against me, is in consequence of the support you have given to Mr. Daniell, when you ought to have remained neutral or to have told them that the agreement had been made, and that they ought to abide by it, and there would have been an end of the matter.

As I told you in a previous letter, I shall now give up everything connected with the original object I had in view, of trying to assist farmers, and as you no doubt are mainly the cause of it, by the course you have pursued, and as you profess to take so much interest in the farmers' welfare, which I feel sure you do take, the least you can do is to take the matter up where I have left it. I am too old to be dragged into quarrels with everybody, as I have been dragged into this one, and by the policy pursued have not been allowed to defend myself against the charges I so much object to.

I have succeeded beyond my expectations in the object I had in view. I have made it possible to conduct the cattle trade of the country on business principles, by providing the means of weighing in our cattle markets and auction marts, and by the provision that has been made for the publication of official live-weight quotations, which will be published by the Board of Agriculture, and this has all been done *without any cost to the farmer*. There are a great many things still remaining to be

done that would materially assist farmers and the land generally. If you have not time to take the matter up yourself, you have a great many friends and are very popular, you should try to get some one to take the question in hand to replace me. Whoever takes it up must not mind work, or they will fail. It has taken me some years to learn what I have now learnt. I have had to learn a farmer's trade, a butcher's trade, and a dealer's trade, and I now thoroughly understand them all, and am able to answer the silly and frivolous objections that opponents in the House of Commons invariably raise to any great change of this kind which they themselves do not understand.

I have no doubt you can find some one capable of doing it. But the question is, will he work, and without pay? I doubt it.

I shall be happy to give any one who undertakes the subject all the information in my power, as I feel farmers want every assistance that can be given them. I still feel very sorry for the losses they have sustained, and are still sustaining, and would gladly at any time have done anything I could to assist them. The Government can do nothing, in a question of this kind it must rest with the farmers themselves. I must again remind you that this is a question of great public importance, connected with a most important national industry, and I have a perfect right to give my opinion on a subject I have paid so much attention to, as you have a right to give your opinion. I do not think we need differ about that.

P.S.—In your letter of September 30th, 1892, you said you declined to have any further communication with me. Now that the question will be practically set at rest by the decision of the arbitrator, I venture to put into one letter a summary of the case as I understand it.

I have now found a copy of the letter I wrote to Mr. Daniell asking him by whose authority he was acting, and asking him to show me your letters to him. This letter you would not allow me to send; if it had gone, it would have stopped the whole of this quarrel. I also told you I was going to publish the letter I showed you, and to sign it a subscriber, and this

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you asked me not to do, and merely to oblige you I consented to send it in my own name. If it had gone in the name of a subscriber I should not have been mixed up with the matter as I have been. Whichever way you take it you have been the cause of what has happened.

In answer to your letter of October 23rd, 1892, I told you what wanted doing about the Dead Meat Trade. If you will turn to the *Star* newspaper of July 2nd, 1892, you will see a case that was tried for the very thing I told you about, nothing wants doing worse than what I described to you. In the same letter I told you about the difficulty that had arisen about wire. I now send you the case I alluded to. You will see what I told you is true. Wire is a great future danger to hunting. The Scotch and Welsh tenants who have taken land here are the great difficulty as the law now stands.

The only thing that you have succeeded in, that I can see, is to get rid of me. I think you will find that this will delay operations for four years at least, till my successor has learnt what has taken me more than four years to learn, and this will be so much time lost, when time is of so much importance. I am not dictating to you what you should do—as I have told you before, you have a perfect right to have your own opinion as much as I have mine—but what I have stated are facts, as your own letters will prove.

I shall, however, be quite content to accept the decision of the arbitrator as a final settlement between us, whatever it may be.

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